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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

Canadian Red Cross Extends $2 Million to Baltic Countries *[BNS]* 1
ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 2 Jun 1
Press Review for 3 Jun 1

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Official on 'Permanent' Moratorium on Nuclear Tests *[Moscow International]* 3
Commentary Views U.S. Treasury Secretary Visit *[Moscow International]* 3
Ceremony in New York Marks 'Battle of Atlantic' *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 2 Jun]* 3
Chilean President Aylwin Arrives in Moscow *[ITAR-TASS]* 4
Meets With Yeltsin *[ITAR-YASS]* 4
Documents on Cooperation Signed *[ITAR-TASS]* 4
'Text' of Declaration on Relations *[ITAR-TASS]* 4
Leaders Highlight Common Experiences *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
Yeltsin To Address Constitutional Conference 5 Jun *[ITAR-TASS]* 6
Negotiations Regarding Black Sea Fleet Planned 6
Summit Will Not Be Easy *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 2 Jun]* 6
Talks Called For at Presidential Level *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
Kozyrev To Visit Kiev 4 Jun *[Moscow TV]* 7
Kozyrev's Agenda Detailed *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
Yeltsin, Kravchuk To Meet for Talks *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 3 Jun]* 7
Foreign Ministry Declines To Observe Latvian Elections *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 2 Jun]* 8
Negotiations Held With Latvia; Agreements Reached 8
Agreement on Transporting Servicemen Signed *[LETA]* 8
Other Agreements Outlined *[ITAR-TASS]* 8
Talks Come to End *[ITAR-TASS]* 9
Latvian Annulment of Enterprise Agreement Termed Illegal *[ITAR-TASS]* 9
Croatian President Tudjman Commends Russia's Role *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 2 Jun]* 9
Commentary on Iran-Iraq Oil to Belgrade 'Doubtful' *[Moscow International]* 10
Rutskoy Meets Belgian Defense Minister, Military Delegation *[ITAR-TASS]* 11
Further on Meeting *[Groot-Bijgaarden DE STANDAARD 3 Jun]* 11
TV Reports Luftwaffe Adoption of MiG-29 *[Moscow TV]* 11
Portuguese Premier's Postponed Visit Will Take Place *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 2 Jun]* 12
Grachev Scores DPRK Decision To Withdraw From NPT *[PRAVDA 2 Jun]* 12
Volskiy Attends Japanese Economic Meeting *[Russian TV]* 12
Chinese 'Piracy' Against Russian Ship Noted *[Moscow Radio]* 13
Azerbaijan's Mavsimov Concludes Talks in Moscow *[Baku Radio]* 13
Delegation Continues Talks With Azeri Parliament *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
Fate of Servicemen Held in Azerbaijan Discussed *[ITAR-TASS]* 14
Georgian Intelligence 'Recruiting Russian Citizens' *[IZVESTIYA 2 Jun]* 14
Tajik Spokesman on Civil War, Ties With Russia *[KURANTY 2 Jun]* 14
Government Leaders' Activities at Home, Abroad Listed *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 29 May]* 15
Moldova's Sangheli Procures New Loan *[SEGODNYA 1 Jun]* 16
Foreign Ministry Statement on 'Military Coup' in Guatemala *[ITAR-TASS]* 16
Consular Issues Discussed With Cuba in Havana *[ITAR-TASS]* 17
Chubays Says G-7 Loans To Be Used for Privatization *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 2 Jun]* 17
Officials Deny Financial Aid Plan for Former Soviet States *[ITAR-TASS]* 17
Kondratyev on Dangers of Afghan-Tajik 'Provocations' *[Moscow International]* 18

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Constitution & Political Issues

Agenda, Schedule for Constitutional Conference *[ITAR-TASS]* 19
Yeltsin Issues Decree on Constitutional Conference *[ITAR-TASS]* 19
Zorkin To Attend Conference, Argue Against Judicial Office *[Russian TV]* 19
Khasbulatov May Attend if Conference 'Consultative' *[IZVESTIYA 1 Jun]* 20
Aide Volkov Sees Intention To Remove Yeltsin *[MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS 3 Jun]* 20
'Sensations Unlikely' at Constitutional Conference *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 3 Jun]* 21
Popov Urges Adoption of 'Constitutional Law' *[IZVESTIYA 2 Jun]* 22
Officers Union To Take Part in 5 Jun Rallies *[Radio Rossii]* 23
Parliament's Mityukov on Draft Constitutions *[KURANTY 2 Jun]* 24
Burbulis' Center Discusses Constitution Tactics *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 3 Jun]* 25
Muscovites Polled on Draft Constitution *[MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA 2 Jun]* 26
'Alternative' Constituent Conference Opens *[ITAR-TASS]* 27
Yeltsin To Sign Degree on Personnel Policy Council *[ITAR-TASS]* 27
Coalition Agreement of Centrist Forces Issued *[ITAR-TASS]* 27
Gaydar Cited on Return; Shumeyko on Cabinet Changes *[Radio Rossii]* 27

Economic & Media Issues

Chernomyrdin Signs 'Instruction' on Agriculture *[Moscow Radio]* 28
Shumeyko Previews Decree on Curbing Inflation *[Radio Rossii]* 28
Abolition of Oil Products Price Ceiling Protested *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 1 Jun]* 28
Ruble Falls to 1,050 to Dollar in Interbank Dealing *[IZVESTIYA 2 Jun]* 28
Economist Reports Commodity Price Shifts *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 1 Jun]* 29
Government Spending 'Moratorium' Planned *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 1 Jun]* 30
Paper Assesses Accord Between Government, Bank *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 27 May]* 32
Republic Heads 'Forgery' Said 'Preliminary' Document *[IZVESTIYA 1 Jun]* 33
Media Ministry News Conference Hits Observers Councils *[IZVESTIYA 1 Jun]* 33

Military Issues

New Concept of Defense Industry Privatization Promoted *[SEGODNYA 27 May]* 34
Military Equipment Policy Council Holds First Session *[Russian TV]* 34
Officers Union Interrepublican Conference Held *[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 1 Jun]* 34
Commander Addresses Border Guard Ceremony 28 May 35
Guards Equipped With New Protection Means *[ITAR-TASS]* 35
Commander Cited on Border *[Moscow TV]* 35
Role of Troops Viewed *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 1 Jun]* 35
Further Updating of Northern Fleet Urged *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 1 Jun]* 36

Supreme Soviet

Rutskoy's 'Constitutional Status' To Be Examined *[ITAR-TASS]* 37
Parliament To Send Khasbulatov to Conference *[ITAR-TASS]* 37
Parliament Debates Constitution Adoption Procedure *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 3 Jun]* 38
Joint Session Discusses Youth, Rutskoy, Central Bank *[Moscow TV]* 38
Proceedings for 2 Jun Session Detailed *[Russian TV]* 38
New Visa Law Passed *[ITAR-TASS]* 39
Composition of New Commission Viewed *[ITAR-TASS]* 40
Property Management Law Adopted *[ITAR-TASS]* 40
Appeal Issued on Constitutional Conference *[Moscow TV]* 40
Budget Returned by President Passed on Reexamination *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 1 Jun]* 40
Soviet of Republic Chairman Interviewed *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 1 Jun]* 41
Compares Parliament, CPSU Presidium *[Moscow International]* 41
Deputies Offered 'Inducement' To Attend Congress *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 28 May]* 42
Payment 'On Demand' for Communications Services Decreed
[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 26 May] 42

Regional Affairs

Situation 'Deteriorated' in North Ossetia, Ingushetia *[ITAR-TASS]* 42
Ingush President Urges Solving Refugee Problem *[ITAR-TASS]* 43
Further on Ossetia-Ingush State of Emergency *[ITAR-TASS]* 43
North Ossetian Speaker Calls For Russia's Unity *[ITAR-TASS]* 43
Chechen Premier on Treaty With Russia, Yeltsin Decree *[Radio Rossii]* 44
Chechnya Ready for Talks With Russia *[ITAR-TASS]* 44
Chechnya Premier Hints at Dudayev-Yeltsin Collusion *[PRAVDA 2 Jun]* 44
Chechen Leadership Statement on 30 May Incident *[ITAR-TASS]* 45
Chechen Oppositionist Rejects Federation Treaty *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 29 May]* 45
Ministry Plans To Move Chechen Oil Processing Center *[ITAR-TASS]* 46
Barannikov Views Far East Security Problems *[Moscow TV]* 46
Constitutional Court Considers Applications on Mordovia *[ITAR-TASS]* 46
Court Ends Hearings *[ITAR-TASS]* 47
Court Cannot 'Interfere ' *[Moscow TV]* 47

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Diplomats Urge UN To Reconsider Effect of FRY Sanctions *[Kiev International]* 48
Issue of Ship Passage Along Danube Settled With Romania *[Kiev International]* 48
Kravchuk Meets With Czech Parliamentary Delegation *[Kiev International]* 48
Zlenko Meets Delegation *[Kiev International]* 48
Official Assesses Recent Black Sea Fleet Developments
[DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA 27 May] 48

National Affairs

Kravchuk Addresses Parliament on Constitution *[Kiev International]* 49
Parliament Refuses Emergency Powers for President, Prime Minister *[UKRINFORM]* 50
Plyushch Sees 'No Power Crisis' *[IZVESTIYA 2 Jun]* 50
Rukh Opposes 'All Structures of Power' *[Kiev International]* 51
Compulsory Service in Armed Forces Reduced to 18 Months *[Kiev International]* 51

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

Shushkevich, Iranian Envoy Discuss Relations *[Tehran IRNA]* 52
Defense Minister on Participation in Military Conflicts *[BELINFORM]* 52
Says Arms Reduction Commitments Being Fulfilled *[ITAR-TASS]* 52

CENTRAL ASIA

Tajikistan

Talks With Opposition 'Making Difficult Progress' *[ITAR-TASS]* 53
Government Studying Situation in Dushanbe *[ITAR-TASS]* 53
Border With Afghanistan Being Reinforced *[Moscow Radio]* 53
Russian Humanitarian Aid Arrives in Dushanbe *[Dushanbe Radio]* 54

CAUCASUS

Azerbaijan

Elchibey Meets With U.S. Senators *[AZERTAC]* 55
Kamberov Meets Senators *[ITAR-TASS]* 55
U.S. Official Expresses 'Optimism' Over Tripartite Plan *[TURAN]* 55

Iranian Culture Minister Visits, Signs Agreement *[AZERTAC]* 56
Meets Elchibey *[Baku Radio]* 56
Karabakh Proposes Talks on Crisis *[Moscow International]* 56

Georgia

Shevardnadze Arrives in Beijing on Official Visit *[ITAR-TASS]* 56
Meets Jiang Zemin *[ITAR-TASS]* 56
PRC Reportage on Visit 57
Parliament Discusses Deteriorating Economy *[Tbilisi Radio]* 57
Official Sums Up Military Situation Around Sukhumi *[Tbilisi Radio]* 57
Opposition Leader Demands Shevardnadze's Resignation *[ITAR-TASS]* 58

BALTIC STATES

Estonia

Prime Minister Holds Trade Talks With Kyrgyz President *[BNS]* 59
Defense Chief Says 'Most' Russian Troops To Leave This Year *[BNS]* 59
Government 'Not Ready' To Build Housing for Russian Troops *[BNS]* 59
Russian Navy Personnel To Serve in Tallinn on Contract *[BNS]* 60
Border Guards Take Over Former Soviet Radar Stations *[BNS]* 60
Armed Forces Chief Meets Finnish Counterpart in Helsinki *[Tallinn Radio]* 60

Canadian Red Cross Extends $2 Million to Baltic Countries

WS0306100893 Tallinn BNS in English 1253 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] Moscow, June 02, BNS—The Canadian Red Cross is planning a USD 2 mln [million] humanitarian aid operation in Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia.

BNS was told by officials in the Moscow branch of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies that in June 1993 one year medical supplies will be delivered to children's hospitals and wards in the three Baltic states.

The supplies will be sufficient for 5797 beds (70 hospitals) in Lithuania, 2090 beds (27 hospitals) in Latvia, and 981 beds (31 hospitals) in Estonia.

A shipment of medicinal drugs will arrive in St. Petersburg June 16 for delivery to Vilnius, Riga and Tallinn.

The Canadian Red Cross has been aiding the Baltic states for a second year. Last year medicines were supplied for 10,400 beds in the three countries.

The new operation is part of the Solidarity program run in the former Soviet Union by the Canadian Red Cross and its contribution to the International Red Cross's efforts to help socially ill-protected groups in the former USSR by sending them medicines and medical equipment.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 2 Jun

LD0206055293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0501 GMT 2 Jun 93

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow June 2 TASS—"We shall not allow any idle political talk either at the Congress (of People's Deputies) or at the constitutional conference" is a headline in the newspaper ROSSIISKIYE VESTI quoting president Boris Yeltsin as telling journalists who accompanied him during a trip to the small town of Kondrovo, 46 km from Kaluga.

The newspaper also quotes the president as saying that proposals as to how a new constitution should be adopted with due regard for the opinions of all subjects of the federation will be worked out during the constitutional conference which is due to open on June 5.

ROSSIISKIYE VESTI, commenting on a meeting between Russian parliament speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov and journalists on the eve of a meeting of people's deputies of all levels, during which he said that the April 25 referendum dealt a "strong blow" against Russia's statehood, the newspaper refers to the assertion as "paradoxical".

A direct expression of the people's will is one of the main elements of government by the people, the newspaper writes. Besides, the referendum does not create a "new political reality. It only identifies it and is supposed to help the authorities in the choice of the right line of conduct", ROSSIISKIYE VESTI points out.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (Red Star) and TRUD run summaries of Khasbulatov's report at the above-mentioned meeting of deputies who gathered to discuss how to enhance the role of the local governing councils in the process of preparation and adoption of a new fundamental law of the Russian Federation.

TRUD carries a brief summary of remarks at the meeting by Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy, who said the results of the referendum do not give an opportunity to hold early elections in Russia.

The press reports a briefing, held on the eve of the constitutional conference by Sergey Filatov, chief of the administration of the president of Russia. Newspapers single out his remark that Khasbulatov's intention to initiate a referendum on three drafts of a new constitution at once, including the "communist" one, is none other than a desire to frustrate the adoption of any draft constitution altogether and keep the country's current constitution intact.

Commenting on the same subject, PRAVDA criticised the presidential draft new constitution of the Russian Federation, asserting in particular that it does not reflect "serious changes in civil status in Russia" which have already been sealed by decrees and current practice.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA gives prominence to an article about a sociological survey of problems regarding a military service under contract. The survey was carried out by the Russian Armed Forces' centre for military-sociological, psychological and legal studies. About 2,000 people—draftees, active-duty servicemen and employees serving under contract, the commanders of military units, the staff of enlistment offices and personnel agencies—were polled during the survey.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA describes as positive the fact that 55 per cent of graduates of secondary educational establishments and 38 per cent of active-duty servicemen express a desire to try their hand at turning professionals.

In their reports from flashpoints, newspapers single out the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict and an agreement, reached with Russia's participation, on the cessation of fire in the Gumista sector.

Press Review for 3 Jun

LD0306054593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0441 GMT 3 Jun 93

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow June 3 ITAR-TASS—Preparations for the Constitutional Conference are in the focus of attention of Moscow newspapers today. TRUD writes that

President Yeltsin signed on Wednesday the decree on the order of work of the conference, which will be held between June 5 and 16, 1993, in the Kremlin. Assessing the president's draft constitution, the newspaper points out that "the advantages of the mechanism of power, reflected in the president's draft constituion, look indisputable". "I am sure that strong presidential power is the only thing capable of maintaining the balance between freedom and order," writes the author of the article on this subject. He points out, at the same time, that there is a defect in the president's draft constitution: It says nothing about the state's duty to take care of its citizens.

According to ROSSIISKAYA GAZETA, Yeltsin had a working meeting with a group of members of the government and informed them of his meeting with directors of the largest industrial enterprises of Russia, held late in May. According to Yeltsin, the directors expressed full support for the reform-oriented policy, pursued by him and the Cabinet of Ministers, and voiced full support for the new draft constitution, submitted by the president.

The newspaper frontpages an article analysing the president's draft constitution. In the opinion of the author, "it records in the constitution the idea of a super-presidential republic, with the parliament playing a purely auxiliary role". He believes, however, that Russia cannot be a "pure" presidential or parliamentary republic. The key task for Russia is to find its own way of development, and it cannot be reached merely by legal acts, issued by the president or the parliament."

ROSSIISKAYA GAZETA publishes the texts of reports of Chairman of Parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov and Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy, made at the all-Russian meeting of representatives of Soviets (councils) of People's Deputies of all levels, which was held in Moscow recently.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA quotes the statement of Sergey Filatov, head of the president's administration, who criticised the suggestion of the head of the Russian parliament that not only the president's draft constitution, but also other draft constitutions should be put up for a referendum. Filatov believes that "none of them will get the needed number of votes."

PRAVDA publishes an article saying that the president's draft constitution "is aimed at destroying the constitutional system in Russia". In the opinion of its author, it is directed against "soviet power" and "basic democracy", at undermining the federation. He believes it is possible to oppose the president's draft constitution by defending the old constitution of the country.

The conflict between Russia and Ukraine over the Black Sea Fleet and its status has reached the critical point, ROSSIISKAYA GAZETA writes. It points out in the article dealing with that problem that there is only one way to settle the constradictions: to give a legal framework on the government level to the relations between the two countries in this sphere.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA frontpages an article about the situation in Tkvarcheli—the city which is experiencing acute food shortages as a result of the blockade, brought about by the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict. According to the KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA correspondent, the way out of the city is blocked, because there is a front line around it. People live there on corn and beans. Fortunately the pre-war corn and bean crops were very good. "People are not divided there into Georgians, Russians, Abkhazians and Mingrels. They are divided into those who are just hungry and who are very hungry", he writes.

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA carries an article by Eduard Limonov about repressions during the Stalin regime, political prisoners and the network of labour camps created at that time.

Official on 'Permanent' Moratorium on Nuclear Tests

LD0306113793 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1100 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Text] Moscow is ready to make its moratorium on nuclear tests permanent. This was said by the head of the Russian Foreign Ministry Department on Disarmament, Oleg Sokolov, in a Radio Moscow interview.

The term of the American moratorium on nuclear explosions expires on 1 July.

Speaking in this context, Sokolov expressed Russia's readiness to begin consultations with the United States on the matter. In his opinion, talks on a complete ban on tests conducted within the framework of the Geneva conference on disarmament should be stepped up.

The spokesman of the Russian Foreign Ministry supported a French proposal to discuss the problem by all the five nuclear powers.

Commentary Views U.S. Treasury Secretary Visit

LD0206142093 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1110 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Announcer-read Anatoliy Potapov commentary]

[Text] The U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Lloyd Bentsen arrives on a three day visit to Moscow on Thursday. The question of Western aid to Russia is expected to be taken up during the discussions he will be having. Here is the opinion of Radio Moscow news analyst Anatoliy Potapov:

On the eve of his visit, the U.S. secretary of the treasury found it necessary to recall the main conditions of Western aid to Russia's reforms. They are actually well-known. First of all, inflation should be put under control, the budget deficit reduced, and privatization stepped up.

It seems to me, however, that these are not simply conditions that are put to Russia from the outside and of which it has to be constantly reminded. These are actually the primary tasks of the country's economy and finances, in the solution of which the Russian leaders are themselves interested. And some serious efforts have already been made in that respect.

For instance, the government and the Central Bank of Russia have reached an agreement on a financial policy. The main objective is to bring down the monthly inflation level to 10 percent by the end of the year.

And the West naturally took notice of this important agreement. It was this that apparently prompted the intention of the International Monetary Fund [IMF] to announce the granting of a $1.5 billion dollar loan to Russia in the next few days. And that, without any doubt, would be very timely to help the economic reforms in this country.

Incidentally, though the West has serious intentions of helping Russia, the IMF was able to provide it with financial assistance of only one billion dollars last year. It seems to me that Russia could benefit also from another intention of the world monetary fund. That is to give Russia on the whole three billion dollars in the course of four or five months. The loans could go to reduce the budget deficit and to buy commodities abroad.

The sums mentioned are not very big, but that could be the beginning of practical and effective aid to Russia's reforms. Besides the speed in granting a loan would again show that the IMF has confidence in Russia's economy moving over to free enterprise. Other big Western investments could then be expected and Russia's economy needs that very much.

It can only be hoped that the current visit to Moscow of America's secretary of the treasury would help speed up the implementation of the large-scale aid program which the G-7 countries approved of in April, and a sum of $28.4 billion dollars of aid was then mentioned.

There should be no delay in putting that program into action. The West itself stands to benefit from that as well. The success of reforms would mean a big economic and intellectual potential, which Russia no doubt has, joining the world economy.

Ceremony in New York Marks 'Battle of Atlantic'

PM0206140393 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 2 Jun 93 p 3

[ITAR-TASS report: "In Memory of Seamen Who Perished"]

[Text] New York, 1 Jun—The U.S. Stars and Stripes and Russia's St. Andrew's Flag hung together near the aircraft carrier-museum Intrepid, moored permanently in New York. A solemn remembrance ceremony was held here for the sailors from various countries who perished, a ceremony which crews from Russian Navy ships took part in for the first time. The destroyer Bezuderzhnyy and the tanker Shelsna were winding up their visit to the city on the Hudson, where they had been invited to celebrate Navy Week with the U.S. Navy.

This year it was held in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic, which added a heroic page to the history of World War II. As was pointed out at the remembrance ceremony, this battle cost the lives of 21,000 seamen from the states of the anti-Hitler coalition. They also lie in the international cemetery in Murmansk, which received convoys from the United States carrying aid for the Soviet Union.

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Chilean President Aylwin Arrives in Moscow

LD0206154493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1351 GMT 2 Jun 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Ryabikin]

[Text] Moscow June 2 TASS—President Patricio Aylwin of Chile arrived on the first-ever official visit to Russia in the history of relations between the two countries.

During the visit which will last until June 5, Aylwin is due to meet with President Boris Yeltsin, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, Parliament Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov, Constitutional Court Chairman Valeriy Zorkin, and Patriarch Aleksey the Second of Moscow and all Russia. The Chilean president will also address a gathering in the Academy of Sciences.

A group of Chilean entrepreneurs accompanying the Chilean president will take part in a Russian-Chilean seminar for business people.

As a result of the visit, the two countries expect to sign a declaration of cooperation between Chile and Russia as well as a number of other inter-state agreements aimed at boosting interaction between the two countries in a variety of fields.

Meets With Yeltsin

LD0306070793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0700 GMT 3 Jun 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow June 3 TASS—An official ceremony of the meeting of Russian President Boris Yeltsin and President of the Republic of Chile Patricio Aylwin, who has arrived in Moscow for a visit, was held at the Grand Kremlin Palace today.

The Russian and Chilean state anthems were performed.

Afterwards, Russian-Chilean summit talks began in the St. Catherine Hall. Welcoming the Chilean president, Yeltsin said: "Such was the fate of the two countries that for 21 years there were no contacts between them." The Russian president stressed that the visit was opening up a new era in Russian-Chilean relations.

Bilateral documents are expected to be signed after the end of the talks, primarily of the declaration on principles of relations and cooperation between the two countries.

Documents on Cooperation Signed

LD0306100493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0956 GMT 3 Jun 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Lyudmila Aleksandrova and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow June 3 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Chilean President Patricio Aylwin Azocar signed the declaraton on the principles of mutual relations and cooperation between the two states in the Kremlin on Thursday.

As a result of the summit, the sides also signed the intergovernment agreement on cultural cooperation, the agreement on cooperation to control illegal drug traffic and psychotropic substances and their abuse and the agreement on trade and economic cooperation.

Describing the results of talks at the signing ceremony, Yeltsin stressed that the present "understandings lay down a sound foundation for the relations of partnership and cooperation between Russia and Chile".

In the opinion of the Chilean president, the experience of liberalising the Chilean economy after the period of dictatorship can be useful for the Russian Federation in carrying out economic reforms.

'Text' of Declaration on Relations

LD0306121093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1050 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Text] Moscow, 3 Jun (ITAR-TASS)—Today the press service of the Russian president circulated the text of the Declaration on Principles of Mutual Relations and Cooperation between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Chile, which was signed in Moscow today.

DECLARATION ON PRINCIPLES OF MUTUAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND THE REPUBLIC OF CHILE

The Russian Federation and the Republic of Chile, prompted by the desire to ensure international peace and security, and also to implement the goals and principles of the UN Charter, confirming the invariable principled position by which both sides are guided in the matter of ensuring the right of the peoples to self-determination, confirming the need to strictly observe human rights and liberties, and recognizing the urgent need to renew their bilateral relations, state that in foreign politics and in their bilateral relations the Russian Federation and the Republic of Chile will proceed from the following principled provisions:

1. The sides are building their relations as friendly states in accordance with the principles and norms of international law, including those enshrined in the UN Charter.

The sides will cooperate for the purpose of strengthening peace and international security, and establishing social justice and democracy.

2. The sides will tackle any disputes between them by peaceful means in accordance with the UN Charter, using existing international mechanisms for this purpose. They will refrain from actions likely to cause damage to the interests of each other's security.

3. The sides will maintain regular contacts at various levels on the main questions of bilateral relations, as well as topical international problems.

They will render assistance toward cooperation between the legislative and executive bodies, official persons, and public, including political organizations, in the interests of developing bilateral relations and interaction in the international arena.

4. The sides will expand cooperation within the framework of the United Nations, including in the matter of averting crisis situations, creating an atmosphere of trust, mutual undertanding, and openness in the world, in increasing the UN's contribution to resolving global problems today, and to forming a new and just world order.

The sides will hold regular consultations on the main questions examined in the United Nations Organization and its bodies.

5. The sides will actively promote the process of nuclear, chemical, and biological disarmament. The sides believe that the reduction of armaments to a level sufficient for defense will lead to the strengthening of stability and security in the world. The sides will make efforts to prevent the proliferation of mass-destruction weapons and the technologies connected with them.

6. The sides will help promote the development of mutually advantageous bilateral trade and economic cooperation by means of creating favorable conditions for commercial and entrepreneurial activity by juridical bodies and individuals.

They will encourage the establishment of direct links between enterprises, firms, and other economic organizations, and strive to improve on their territory conditions for the activities of enterprises and entrepreneurs of the other side.

7. The sides will develop cooperation in the sphere of ecology in accordance with the documents of the Rio de Janeiro conference on protection of the environment and development, and with other international treaties in this sphere.

8. The sides will strengthen bilateral scientific and technical cooperation in the spheres of their mutual interest and also expand and deepen contacts and ties between scientific and technical organizations and societies of the two countries. In particular, they will help to establish direct ties between scientists, laboratories, and institutes of Russia and Chile, to conduct joint research projects, and to exchange scientific and technical information.

9. The sides will adopt measures aimed at simplifying the procedures and practice for maintaining contacts between people, including reciprocal trips by citizens for business, cultural, and scientific purposes, and also private trips. The sides will help to develop links in the sphere of culture, education, public health, the press, radio, television, cinema, tourism, and sport.

10. The sides will work together in the struggle against organized crime and international terrorism in its various forms and manifestations, including unlawful acts against the safety of maritime shipping and civil aviation, illegal trading in narcotics, weapons, contraband, including articles of cultural, historic, and artistic value, and also in the struggle against illegal immigration. Cooperation between the sides in these spheres will be regulated by separate agreements.

11. The sides will conclude, where necessary, separate agreements with the purpose of implementing the clauses of this declaration. They acknowledge the need for the renewal of a legal- contractual basis for bilateral relations.

Concluded in Moscow,
3 June 1993 in two copies, each in Russian and Spanish.
For the Russian Federation, B. Yeltsin
For the Republic of Chile, P.Aylwin

Leaders Highlight Common Experiences

LD0306122393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1116 GMT 3 Jun 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow, 3 Jun—The Russian-Chilean document on the principles of mutual relations and cooperation and the other documents which have been signed represent the first such event in the history of bilateral relations, the Russian president stressed in a speech after the documents were signed. "Such an agreement was hardly possible even as recentlt as three or four years ago," he noted.

In the opinion of Boris Yeltsin, "With all the indisputable differences, there has not been such a proximity, such an exchange of views on problems in the development of our countries." In a nationwide plebiscite the people of Chile, and in the April referendum the people of Russia, opted for radical democratic transformations. The task of ensuring the uninterrupted operation of a healthy market economy also brings Russia and Chile closer together. "The question of how to minimize the inevitable losses and how to achieve greater social justice with the economic transformations, without slowing down the pace of the reforms, is topical for both Russia and Chile," the president noted.

Boris Yeltsin said Russia is ready to develop cooperation and interaction with all countries in the Latin American region, in particular in the spheres of space research, the petrochemical and oil refining industries, motor vehicle construction, and information science, among others.

Answering questions from journalists after the ceremony, Boris Yeltsin stated that the Russian-Chilean talks were very successful. He reported that an accord was reached on a trip to Chile by Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin, Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev,

and Defense Minister Pavel Grachev to prepare an agreement on specific issues. He also noted that Russia is especially interested in the Chilean experience in the agrarian sphere. There are also plans to expand cooperation in the sphere of aviation construction and also "military-technical cooperation in a very wide context."

Chilean President Patricio Aylwin noted in his speech that the Russian Federation and the Republic of Chile are united by many features: a love of peace, the search for ways to strengthen democracy, and a striving to develop mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries. The Russian Federation and Chile are both living through a period of democratic construction, he said. After 17 years of dictatorship the Chilean people are restoring democracy. "We follow with respect and sympathy the development of a new democratic constitution which is being carried out by Russia."

"I believe that my visit to Russia and the reciprocal visit by Russian ministers and then by Boris Yeltsin will be the most important stages in further developing cooperation between the countries," the Chilean president stressed.

Yeltsin To Address Constitutional Conference 5 Jun

LD0306111293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1045 GMT 3 Jun 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Lydumila Aleksandrova and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow June 3 TASS—President Yeltsin does not expect an "easy victory" at the constitutional conference, which will be held here from June 5 to June 16. He admitted this to journalists in the Kremlin today after the end of the Russo-Chilean negotiations.

"The difficulties," in his opinion, "arise from the fact that the conference will be attended by all the subjects of the Federation, by representatives from all the sections of the population, from political and public organisations and business quarters. Of course, there will be debates during the constitutional conference, but not of the kind we witness during sessions of the Congress of People's Deputies," the president assured the journalists. "Its work will proceed in panels."

The president recalled that the procedural rules of the conference were strictly laid down by his decree. A plenary meeting will be held on June 5. It will be addressed with reports by President Yeltsin, Academician Sergey Alekseyev and Vice-Premier Sergey Sharkhray. There will be no deliberations after that and the work will be continued in panels.

Yeltsin said that he did not regard the presidential draft as something ideal. "We shall borrow something from the draft of the constitutional commission, particularly from its human rights chapter," he said. Fifteen hundred amendments have been received from the subjects of the Federation. They will be discussed until June 16. "The final plenary meeting," the president said, "is not to adopt the constitution, but to agree on its draft."

As to how the new fundamental law is to be adopted, the president recalled that there were four ways to do it. The constitutional conference is to decide which one to choose.

Negotiations Regarding Black Sea Fleet Planned

Summit Will Not Be Easy

PM0206131793 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 2 Jun 93 p 1

[Aleksandr Pilipchuk report: "Summit Meeting on Black Sea Fleet Does Not Promise To Be Easy. But There Is No Alternative"]

[Text] The stormy squall of emotions that has arisen in the Black Sea Fleet has peaked. The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry recently handed Russia's ambassador to Ukraine a note saying that the hoisting of the St. Andrew's Flag on the ships and vessels of the Black Sea Fleet constitutes a breach of the Yalta agreement and undermines the foundations of a possible accord on the partition of the Black Sea Fleet, renders technical and rear services support for the fleet during the transitional period impossible, and does not, on the whole, help to attain either the Russian Federation's or Ukraine's final objective—the creation of a Russian Black Sea Fleet and a Ukrainian Navy based on it.

But on the last day of May, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk received L. Smolyakov, Russian Federation ambassador in Kiev, who handed him a letter from Russian President Boris Yeltsin. In response to the questions raised by the Ukrainian side, Boris Yeltsin also expressed concern at the situation that has developed in the Black Sea Fleet and shared the opinion that urgent steps should be taken and talks held in the near future between the Ukrainian and Russian foreign ministers aimed at preparing for a future summit meeting.

Thus, the meeting that Black Sea Fleet seamen and representatives of various political and public movements in both Ukraine and Russia have said was necessary for so long is a thing of the near future. Voicing restrained optimism as to the possible results of the coming summit meeting, a large number of experts and observers could not help but draw attention to the Ukrainian defense minister's recent statement in an interview with the newspaper NARODNAYA ARMIYA 1 June. Colonel General Konstantin Morozov assessed "the arbitrary actions by the crews of some Black Sea Fleet ships in raising the St. Andrew's Flag" as "the result of inflammatory activity on the part of anti-Ukrainian political groupings in the Crimea." "Despite the fact that they are trying to rid this action of political overtones by taking refuge behind economic demands, there remains a clear attempt by foreign players to play the Crimean card," the Ukrainian defense minister stressed.

However, Rear Admiral Boris Bogdanov, deputy commander of the Black Sea Fleet for rear services, pointed out at a briefing in Sevastopol that 72 percent of the crew members of the auxiliary fleet vessels that have raised the St. Andrew's Flag are Ukrainians. The seamen have no intention of having a confrontation among themselves, Boris Bogdanov said. They are protesting at the one-sided actions taken by the command of the Ukrainian Navy and their disastrous economic position. Vice Admiral Eduard Baltin, commander of the Black Sea Fleet, also sent a protest to the Ukrainian general prosecutor regarding these actions on the part of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry and Navy.

In the light of the above events and statements the summit meeting does not promise to be any easy one. But there is no alternative to it today.

Talks Called For at Presidential Level

LD0206143293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1353 GMT 2 Jun 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow June 2 TASS—"Sevastopol is the only naval base where the Russian fleet can be stationed on the Black Sea," Admiral Feliks Gromov, commander-in-chief of the Russian Navy, said in an interview with ITAR-TASS on Wednesday.

"The transfer of the main naval base of the Black Sea Fleet to the city of Novorossiysk is out of the question for a simple reason that it will be impossible to build the necessary infrastructure in a new place in the next 50 years. Besides, financially, both Russia and Ukraine are not in a position now to build new military bases," the admiral said.

Gromov described a statement by the Ukrainian military department to expel ships, which had hoisted St. Andrew's flags, from Ukrainian territorial waters as "a political declaration." He said that granting double citizenship to officers and sailors until the division of the Black Sea Fleet between Russia and Ukraine is finally completed, was an acceptable solution of the Black Sea Fleet problem, alongside the joint use of infrastructures of the main naval base in Sevastopol.

"The hoisting of St. Andrew's flags on ships of the Black Sea Fleet came as a surprise to the Russian Navy Command," Admiral Gromov declared. "That was the resolution of its personnel, provoked by a series of illegal actions made by the Ukrainian Defence Ministry, and was not in any way encouraged by the Russian side," Gromov emphasised. "But since the move was made, it is necessary to step up the process of negotiations and find solutions acceptable not only to the Russian and Ukrainian sides, but to all servicemen of the Black Sea Fleet," he said.

"Apparently, Ukrainian military commanders, after taking a number of unilateral steps in violation of Yalta agreements and infringing on the dignity of officers of the Black Sea Fleet, did not expect such a stormy reaction from the personnel of the Black Sea Fleet.

Gromov called for making political resolutions at the level of the Ukrainian and Russian presidents. In his opinion, the Ukrainian Government delegation, which is holding talks with Russian experts on problems of the Black Sea Fleet, does not have enough powers to take efficient decisions. This is one of the reasons why the talks on the implementation of the Yalta agreements have been procrastinated," Gromov said.

Kozyrev To Visit Kiev 4 Jun

LD0206190893 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 2 Jun 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Boris Yeltsin has sent a personal letter to Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk; and Andrey Kozyrev today finally arranged the date for his visit to Kiev, INTERFAX reports. He will fly to the Ukrainian capital on Friday 4 June, and it is possible that from Kiev he will go on a short visit to Sevastopol.

Kozyrev's Agenda Detailed

LD0306103193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1015 GMT 3 Jun 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunayskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 3 Jun—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev will visit Kiev and Sevastopol, the main base of the Black Sea Fleet, during his trip to the Ukraine on 4 June, Russian military sources have told an ITAR-TASS correspondent.

According to their information, in the morning of 4 June the head of the Russian Foreign Ministry will arrive in Kiev for talks on a range of problems concerning the Black Sea Fleet with Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk and Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko. The Russian minister will depart for Sevastopol at midday.

According to the same sources, in Sevastopol Andrey Kozyrev will meet with the command of the Black Sea Fleet and the Ukrainian Navy. The Russian foreign political department is also expected to meet with representatives of the officer corps of the Black Sea Fleet at the fleet's headquarters.

Yeltsin, Kravchuk To Meet for Talks

MK0306103693 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Jun 93 p 1,3

[Vitaliy Portnikov report: "Yeltsin, Kravchuk Will Meet After All. Andrey Kozyrev Heading for Kiev"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Yeltsin and Kravchuk will meet after the commencement of the Constitutional Conference—when the Russian president is finally able

to look around and assess to what extent his political initiative is gaining the upper hand. So far, though, Yeltsin hardly needs to take chances. The "intransigent opposition," and it is not alone, has repeatedly linked its accusations directed at Yeltsin to the Crimean problem, calling the president "the traitor of Russia's national interests." The Russian leader does not need any new internal confrontation; what he does need is proof of his firm stance as a statesman. Leonid Kravchuk, who has found himself in the midst of a political crisis in his own country, faces a similar dilemma. But by the time the meeting takes place the situation in Ukraine may clear up. It is important to ensure that this is a meeting of "self-confident" presidents—otherwise it would turn into yet another exchange of compliments followed by the heightening of the Crimean confrontation.

The choice of officials responsible for the preparation of the summit is also remarkable. These are the foreign ministers. An attempt is under way to shift the crisis from the military to the diplomatic sphere. This is important at least because at present the Defense Ministries of both countries are clearly trying to exploit the existing situation to increase their political clout. A personal factor should not be forgotten, either: Upon Igor Kasatonov's appointment as first deputy commander of the Russian Navy the role of the top naval leadership in the struggle for the Black Sea Fleet has evidently become more distinct, as has the naval command's desire to assume a worldwide geopolitical role: The former Black Sea Fleet commander said the other day that he wanted to keep the Russian Navy in the Baltic states' ports. This is why the expected arrival in Kiev of Andrey Kozyrev, whose ministry has, as a rule, been guided by international law and not by naval emotions in its approach to relations with Ukraine, may somewhat ease the situation. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry Declines To Observe Latvian Elections

MK0206102093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Jun 93 p 3

[Unattributed report under the rubric "NEGA Reports"]

[Text] The Russian Foreign Ministry has declined to send its observers to the upcoming elections to the Latvian Seym set for 5-6 June. The Russian Foreign Ministry statement, made in response to the invitation from the Latvian side, says: "We are being asked to see with our own eyes that a major political event from which, according to some estimates, more than one-third of the country's population—mostly Russians—has been debarred, proceeds in an orderly manner, with no violations of local laws." "The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia," the statement says, "is grateful for the invitation, but it cannot avail itself of it since it does not deem it possible to take part in an action that could be assessed as recognition of the legitimacy of derogation from the political rights of a considerable part of the population of Latvia."

Negotiations Held With Latvia; Agreements Reached

Agreement on Transporting Servicemen Signed

WS0206123793 Riga LETA in English 1204 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] Riga, June 1 (LETA)—A current round of Latvian and Russian intergovernmental negotiations started in Moscow on Monday [31 May]. In the morning a full-scale meeting of the negotiating teams accepted the agenda of the talks. After that the work was proceeded in the groups of experts.

In the afternoon the Latvian State Minister Janis Dinevics and the Transport Minister of the Russian Federation Gennadiy Fadeyev on behalf of the two governments signed an agreement on transporting the Russian troops and servicemen of Russian borderguards, temporarily deployed in the territory of Latvia, as well as shipment of military equipment by railway in the territory of the Latvian Republic. While signing the agreement, the Russian Transport Minister pointed out that Latvia is one of those neighbouring countries which are most cooperative in the field of railway transport.

The negotiations are still under way, and some other agreements are expected to be signed on Wednesday.

Other Agreements Outlined

LD0206143493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1333 GMT 2 Jun 93

[By Aleksandr Krylovich, ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 2 Jun—Another round of Russian-Latvian talks ended in Moscow today. The two sides signed a package of bilateral agreements on a range of political, economic and military issues in the relations between Russia and Latvia.

Sergey Zotov, head of the Russian delegation at the talks, singled out the agreement on cooperation in the use of sections of the oil and oil products pipelines running through the territory of Latvia as being among the most important documents. In his words, after lengthy discussions, a solution has been found. In accordance with the agreement, the pipelines will be operated on the basis of a joint enterprise.

In the military field, agreements were signed concerning the Russian troops' presence on Latvian territory and their "civilized and orderly" withdrawal. Procedure has been laid down for Russian naval ships' movements in Latvian waters and for the use of Latvian Republic's airspace by Russian military aircraft. In Sergey Zotov's view, these documents bring the two sides closer to signing a major treaty to set the deadline for the complete withdrawal of Russian troops. This document is at present going through a preparatory stage.

Agreements were also signed on the issue of transit through Latvia by Russian citizens travelling from Kaliningrad oblast to St. Petersburg, and on cooperation in the field of communications.

Talks Come to End

LD0206204693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2037 GMT 2 Jun 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Aleksander Krylovich]

[Text] Moscow June 3 TASS—A regular round of Russo-Latvian talks ended here on Wednesday with signing a package of bilateral agreements, which regulate a number of political, economic and military issues in the bilateral relations.

Sergey Zotov, head of the Russian delegation at the talks, marked out an agreement on cooperation in operating the stretches of an oil pipe line which ran through the Latvian territory. After long discussions the parties agreed to operate them on the basis of a joint venture, he said.

In the military sphere the parties signed several agreements linked with Russian troops' stay in Latvia and "civilized and orderly" withdrawal.

The parties defined the order of the usage of the Latvian waters by the Russian warships and of the Latvian air space by the Russian military aviation.

According to Zotov, the above-mentioned documents are aimed at concluding in the near future a large-scale agreement which will define the terms for the conclusive withdrawal of the Russian troops. For the time being, this document is under preparation.

The parties also signed agreements on the transit of Russian citizens, who leave the Kaliningrad region for St. Petersburg and on coperation in the communications field.

Latvian Annulment of Enterprise Agreement Termed Illegal

LD0206130093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1207 GMT 2 Jun 93

[By ITAR-TASS Diplomatic correspondent Aleksandr Krylovich]

[Text] Moscow, 2 Jun—The annulment yesterday by the Latvian Parliament of the agreement between the Governments of Russia and Latvia on the use of enterprises located in the territory of the Latvian Republic and under the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation's Armed Forces, which was signed on 21 May this year, is "a completely illegal and arbitary act." Sergey Zotov, head of the Russian delegation at the talks with Latvia, said this here today at the end of the round of talks.

The Latvian side, he stressed, takes full responsibility for the possible consequences this act could have on the future course of the negotiating process between the two states which is intended to be a legal means to settle the problems which have arisen in accordance with the standards of international law. This decision also calls into question confidence in Latvia's signature and makes this state an unreliable partner in the eyes of the world community.

Sergey Zotov announced that, in view of the conditions which have arisen, Russia has suggested to Latvia that agreement be reached on submitting this issue for examination in an international court using universally recognized international procedures, including a possible appeal for examination by an arbitrator or an appeal to the International Court.

Croatian President Tudjman Commends Russia's Role

MK0206110093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Jun 93 p 4

["Exclusive" interview with Croatian President Franjo Tudjman by Aleksandr Slabynko, Sergey Gryzunov, Andrey Baturin, RIAN special correspondents—specially for NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA: "Moscow's Role Is Positive, Says Croatia President Franjo Tudjman in an Interview with NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA;" in Zagreb, date not given]

[Text] [NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA] Mr. President, on 30 May Croatia marked Independence Day. In this connection, how do you assess the present sociopolitical situation in the country that received independence three years ago.

[Tudjman] Three years is not a very long period in the life of one people, but during this time much has been done in Croatia of which one can be rightfully proud. An independent state has been created and recognized by the international community. Also, a democratic order has been established, the most stable in Europe among the former communist countries. Naturally, our state is faced with many problems among which I would single out two main ones. The first bears on the Croatian territories that were earlier occupied by the Yugoslav People's Army, then by the Serbs, and are now under the protection of the UN peacekeeping forces. We must recover these territories as soon as possible since their loss is negatively affecting the country's life—economically and politically, as well as in the development of transportation, tourism, and so forth. We are advocating a political settlement to this problem. If this does not happen after all, Croatia as a sovereign state will use all methods to establish a constitutional order on the territories recognized by the international community as incontestably Croatian.

The second problem is the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Croatia is vitally interested in seeing a resolution to the conflict in this former Yugoslav republic since the

Bosnian crisis is producing a negative impact on its geostrategic position. Furthermore, a considerable part of Croatian people live there. Therefore, Croatia has been assisting both the Croats and the Muslims in defending themselves against Serbian aggression. From the very outset we have been urging an end of the war and a search for political solution that would be satisfactory to all the peoples living there—the Muslims, the Croats, and the Serbs. Unfortunately, we are still very far from a full settlement of the conflict. Nonetheless, we believe that the Vance-Owen peace plan, which will apparently be amended, is the foundation for stopping the war. This is extremely important since, after that, a political solution to the crisis also will necessarily be found.

[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA] How are the problems of Croatia's Serb population being addressed?

[Tudjman] There is no other solution except guaranteeing the Serbs in Croatia all civil and ethnic rights and granting them autonomy in the areas of their concentrated settlements. There can be no talk about anything else since these territories have never been part of any Serbian power. Several hundred years ago the Serbs moved to these territories, where they constituted a minority. And although in communist Yugoslavia they were in the position of a domineering people, democratic Croatia guarantees them civil ethnic rights in accordance with international conventions.

[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA] Do you think normalization of relations between Zagreb and Belgrade is possible?

[Tudjman] This problem is far more complicated than the previous one. We are for normalization of relations with Yugoslavia, correspondingly with Serbia and Montenegro, on the basis of mutual recognition of state sovereignty. This would be in the interests of both peoples and countries and would become a prerequisite for establishing a stable international order in this part of southeast Europe and the Balkans. Without this it would be hard to talk about any normalization of the general situation as a whole. In Bosnia and Herzegovina interests and spheres of influence are coming into conflict, and one should not forget that it was no accident that World War I began here. Therefore it is very important to find ways of settling the Bosnian crisis, stop the forces that are advocating the escalation of the conflict between Islam and Christianity. Therefore the normalization of Croatian-Serbian relations is one of the main problems whose solution is extremely important both for the development of our countries and for peace in the region.

[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA] How do you appraise Russia's contribution to the settlement of the Balkan crisis as a whole?

[Tudjman] I can say with satisfaction that Russian diplomacy is playing an extremely positive role. The main thing is the fact that Russia is exerting influence on all the parties involved, aimed at ensuring a political settlement of the conflict. I think that without this positive role of Moscow the situation on the territory of the former Yugoslavia would have been much more complicated. Russia's efforts in the search for a political settlement of the crisis can only be welcomed. For our part, we shall do everything to ensure that Croatia might have the best possible relations with Russia.

Commentary on Iran-Iraq Oil to Belgrade 'Doubtful'

NC0306072293 Moscow Radio Moscow in Persian 1330 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Sergey Viktorov commentary]

[Summary From Poor Reception] "A few days ago the Egyptian newspaper AL-AHRAM, citing Western intelligence organizations, reported that Iran and Iraq have signed a secret agreement with Belgrade on the sale of oil to Serbia." The problem in the implementation of this agreement is Belgrade's foreign currency shortage in paying for the oil. However this problem can be solved. "Belgrade will pay for Iranian and Iraqi oil with the arms of former Yugoslavia."

In relation to this, Radio Moscow commentator Sergey Viktorov writes that the Egyptian newspaper's "accusation against Tehran and Baghdad" is that UN sanctions are being violated. "Meanwhile, we also see that Iran, which for many months strongly supported the dispatch of any type of assistance and support to the Bosnian Muslims and, as a result, supported the adoption of very decisive steps against the Serb aggressors, is being accused of something like this. But is it possible that such allegations are true? We will try to study this issue."

Nothing in the world is "impossible" and "especially when Tehran is currently trying to modernize its army and Iran's Armed Forces need modern arms to replace the arms lost during the Persian Gulf war. [as heard] Moreover, it is two and a half years that Baghdad has been under UN sanctions."

There are some "doubtful" points in this. "Of course Tehran needs arms to strengthen its Armed Forces. But I think that it is impossible that in order to achieve this end Tehran officials would violate sanctions and would harm their credibility in the eyes of world public opinion. Finally, there are many sources in the world from which modern arms can be acquired. Tehran's military-technical cooperation with Moscow and—as far as we know—with Kiev is expanding. Also, the source of the report on a secret agreement on the delivery of oil to Belgrade is an Egyptian newspaper and, after all, it is very well known what Cairo-Tehran relations are like because of the activities of the fundamentalists in Egypt." Also, the "Western intelligence organizations cannot be considered to be impartial because, after all, the West considers Iran and Saddam Husayn's regime in Baghdad as their major enemies in the Middle East.

Thus, it is probable that the AL-AHRAM report will not create any special commotion."

Rutskoy Meets Belgian Defense Minister, Military Delegation

LD0206150693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1438 GMT 2 Jun 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunaiskiy]

[Text] Moscow June 2 TASS—Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy met Belgian Defence Minister Leo Delcroix in the Kremlin today. On Delcroix's request, Rutskoy told members of the Belgian military delegation about the political situation in Russia and his forecast for the development of the situation in the country in the next few months and in the perspective.

The vice president said in part that the latest developments have been moving in a direction at odds with that favored by Russian people.

Describing the situation in the Armed Forces, Aleksandr Rutskoy noted that the army is facing major problems, including with the withdrawal of troops from other countries, Germany and the Baltics among them. The withdrawal of troops from Georgia and Moldova is next in line, with more difficulties in view, as all this is placing the Russian Armed Forces in a very tense social situation, Rutskoy said.

Leo Delcroix told Rutskoy that he was prepared to state that "full mutual understanding has been reached between the Armed Forces of the two countries and we are set to strengthen relations between the Defence Ministries of Belgium and Russia".

Further on Meeting

BR0306102993 Groot-Bijgaarden DE STANDAARD in Dutch 3 Jun 93 p 1

[Article by Luc Neuckermans: "Delcroix and Grachev To Visit Baranja Together in Fall"]

[Text] Moscow—Leo Delcroix and Pavel Grachev, the Belgian and Russian defense ministers, respectively, are to make a joint visit to their UN troops in the Baranja region (in the former Yugoslavia) this fall. Delcroix announced the visit in Moscow yesterday during an official visit to Russia.

Belgian and Russian UN troops are carrying out joint assignments in the Baranja region, although things do not always run entirely smoothly. Delcroix and Grachev want their visit to change this.

It also was agreed that from now on the Belgian and Russian military academies will exchange students. So, Belgians will now be able to attend courses in the military academies in St. Petersburg and Moscow, and Russians will be able to come to Brussels to gain a better understanding of NATO's structure and modus operandi.

The Belgian defense minister, on a visit to Moscow and St. Petersburg at Grachev's invitation, had an unscheduled meeting with Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy in the Kremlin yesterday. The meeting is noteworthy because Rutskoy and President Yeltsin are at odds with each other, and Rutskoy has even been prohibited from receiving foreign visitors.

During his talks in Moscow, Delcroix was briefed on the full extent of the problems confronting the uprooted Russian Federation. In the military sector, the Russians primarily are at a loss about what to do with the massive influx from Germany and the Baltic states of troops, who will merely join the Federation's vast "army" of unemployed.

Moscow is even toying with the idea of postponing the withdrawal of troops from Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania for as long as possible.

Yesterday afternoon, Delcroix visited the Kubinka air force base, where MiG-29's gave flight demonstrations. According to the Russian Air Force, this fighter far outstrips the performance of the F-16's. MiG-29's also are used by the German Air Force, which inherited them from the former GDR.

Minister Leo Delcroix was happy to hear from the Russian fighter pilots at the air force base that they considered 100 flying hours per year sufficiently safe. In Belgium, Delcroix was at odds with NATO and his own air force, which demanded 160 and 180 flying hours, respectively, as the safety standard for pilots, whereas he wants to reduce the number of hours spent in the air in order to achieve the proposed cuts in defense expenditures.

TV Reports Luftwaffe Adoption of MiG-29

LD0206212693 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 2 Jun 93

[By correspondent V. Kondratyev from Germany; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] The Soviet MiG-29 fighter has been officially adopted by the German Luftwaffe.

[Kondratyev] The most state-of-the-art fighter planes of the Luftwaffe are of Soviet make—such is local press comment on this unusual event. MiG-29 planes will fulfill the important mission of protecting the air space between Nuremberg and Hamburg. They are being flown by 30 pilots, 14 of whom have flown the Red Rita—this is what the MiGs were nicknamed in the National People's Army of the GDR, before the fall of the Berlin Wall. Incidentally, the fraternal army received the machines only a year before that, though they were

designed in 1978 and were regarded as one of the most dangerous weapons of the communist power.

The European fighter plane of the 1990's is first of all a challenge to the MiG whose flying characteristics still do not fail to amaze Western experts. Its speed is Mach 2.5, and it fires from the hip, like a cowboy. Pilots say that the MiG can easily down a Phantom, the Luftwaffe's mainstay. The machine, which weighs 15 tonnes, can even land on grass.

All would be well, but for the drawbacks typical of everything produced in our plants—short life and poor quality. MiG engines require overhaul every 300 hours, compared to the Phantom's 600 hours. After 2,500 flying hours the aircraft can be scrapped, whereas aircraft here remain in service for 6,000 hours.

Anyhow, 24 fighter planes officially adopted by the Luftwaffe will yet do some work. And next year, another innovation will be introduced—Phantoms and MiGs will be operating together in the same air force detachment near Rostock.

Portuguese Premier's Postponed Visit Will Take Place

PM0306113193 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 2 Jun 93 p 1

[Unattributed report under the "Executive Power and Monitoring" rubric: "Postponement"]

[Text] Portuguese Prime Minister Anibal Cavaco Silva was due to arrive today in Moscow on a visit—which produced a mixed response in the press. But the visit has not taken place—it has been postponed. What caused this exceptional event in world diplomatic practice?

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI asked Vladimir Fedorov, chief of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers—government apparatus protocol service, and then Vladimir Yefimov, deputy chief of the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry Europe Department First European Administration, to comment on the situation.

Vladimir Fedorov said that from his standpoint as organizer, the postponement of the visit can scarcely be regarded as a collapse in Russian-Portuguese relations. A politically and economically tense moment had certainly developed in our country, and that was why the visit was deferred.

But what is the Foreign Ministry's standpoint regarding the postponement of the visit? According to Vladimir Yefimov, although such last-minute deferments of visits are not usual in diplomatic practice, our domestic political and economic situation cannot be described as altogether normal.

The Portuguese side had shown understanding, Vladimir Yefimov noted. A lot of work had been done in the runup to the Portuguese prime minister's visit but, on the other hand, according to Yefimov, it could not be said that great damage has been done to Russian-Portuguese relations. The visit will take place in the very near future.

Regarding the timetable, the Russian side did propose other dates but they proved inconvenient to the Portuguese side, being too close to the agreed date. However, as a result we reached an accord on returning to the question of the postponed visit and reexamining new dates acceptable to both sides. The two sides remain interested in the meeting, and all the necessary documents have been prepared. After all, the Russian diplomat stressed, Portugal is an interesting partner for Russia from the standpoint of relations with the EEC and the Council of Europe and on the general economic plane.

Portugal and Russia have pretty good prospects for developing bilateral contacts. Portugal has built up quite a lot of experience in making the transition from a totalitarian-type state system to a democratic one.

The visit will take place, and both sides are ready for it.

Grachev Scores DPRK Decision To Withdraw From NPT

PM0306104393 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Jun 93 p 6

[ITAR-TASS/Efir Daydzhest column report under "From the Current of Events" rubric: "Grachev Condemns"]

[Text] 1 Jun—Russian Defense Minister P. Grachev has noted that Russia attaches great significance to cooperation with South Korea, cooperation which could be developed in the military, economic, and political spheres, Seoul radio reports. In conversation with Kim Sok-kyu, the new South Korean ambassador in Moscow, he stressed that North Korea's decision to withdraw from the international Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons is deserving of condemnation and that Moscow is watching the development of events intently. The minister gave an optimistic assessment of the prospects for military cooperation between Russia and South Korea.

Volskiy Attends Japanese Economic Meeting

LD0206123493 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 2 Jun 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] A statement made today by Arkadiy Volskiy, chairman of Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs [RUIE], during the Russian-Japanese economic meeting, has created a sensation in Moscow's political life. In an evident effort to dissociate himself from yesterday's statement by Aleksandr Rutskoy, his co-chair of the Civic Union, Volskiy spoke in support of the constitutional conference and President Yeltsin.

[Volskiy] The draft proposed by the Russian President—of course with necessary adjustments, primarily of articles on the economic sphere, human rights, and rights of component parts of the Federation—will create a big move toward political detente. I would like to remind you that the RUIE has always said, and I will reiterate it now, that Russia needs liberal reforms and a strong power. This is what we proceed from.

Chinese 'Piracy' Against Russian Ship Noted

LD0206171393 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0530 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] Here is a report from Vladimir Kulikov in Beijing on an act of piracy against a Russian ship anchored off the coast of China.

[Kulikov] This episode occurred in the South China Sea [as heard], off the shores of the Chinese province of Shandong, near the port of Weihaiwei. That was where the Sibirskiy-2114, a small Russian ocean and river vessel, was subjected to attack. The vessel, which belongs to the Lena River Line, was chartered to the Nakhodka-based shipping company, Centaur, for the shipment of goods between Russia, Korea, Japan, and China. The ship, which was carrying cars, motorcycles, grain, and rolled metal, encountered a storm in the approaches to the port of Weihaiwei. The crew decided to shelter in the nearest small bay. Toward morning, the seamen wanted to continue the voyage to their port of destination but were prevented from doing so by Chinese fishermen who turned up in the bay. They demanded a ransom for damage allegedly done to plantations of sea-kale. However, this was merely a pretext for what happened next. Chinese vessels appeared without warning. Armed men aboard the ships opened fire on the harmless vessel. After boarding the ship, they wreaked havoc, beating up members of the crew, damaging the cargo and taking away anything they could, including the ship's cables. The vessel's mechanic received a gunshot wound.

The official Chinese authorities of Shandong province, who turned up some time later, continued these illegal actions, accusing the captain of every crime under the sun, including smuggling and violation of China's territorial waters, even though all the documents proffered by the captain, including customs and cargo papers, were in order. A short while later a Chinese court demanded that a fine of $580,000 be paid even before an investigation had been held. It threatened to auction the ship. Protests by the Russian consulate, a note from the embassy in Beijing, and a protest lodged with the Chinese embassy in Moscow have not been answered.

I asked (Vladimir Tolop), managing director of the Centaur joint- stock company, which owns the ship, what he thought of the Chinese authorities' behavior. The acts of piracy by the Chinese authorities in Shandong province, he replied, are completely at variance with international maritime law and the friendly relations developing between the two nations and states. The ship has now been impounded for 75 days. The crew is being terrorized. As shipowner, captain, and crew member, I demand the immediate release of the vessel and its cargo and an investigation into the piratical activities of the Chinese fishermen and the participation of the local authorities in this.

[Announcer] This just shows that the days of piracy are not gone.

Azerbaijan's Mavsimov Concludes Talks in Moscow

NC0106205093 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 31 May 93

[Text] The first round of the talks held by an Azerbaijan delegation headed by Ali Mavsimov, first deputy prime minister and minister of economy, and the Russian Federation Committee for Interstate Cooperation has ended. The talks began on 21 May. The Council of Ministers has informed an AZERTAC correspondent that the talks dealt with updating Azerbaijan's state debt for the technical assistance Russia gave to the Republic in 1992 and the amount of credits Russia will extend to Azerbaijan in 1993.

The draft of the agreement to be concluded and the list of commodities Azerbaijan will purchase with the credits it will receive from Russia were submitted to the Russian Government.

According to Ali Mavsimov, the final amount of Russia's credits to Azerbaijan will be established after the documents are studied.

Delegation Continues Talks With Azeri Parliament

LD0206180293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1624 GMT 2 Jun 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow June 2 TASS—Talks between the Russian parliamentary delegation and leaders of the Azeri parliament have been going on in Baku for two days. Anatoliy Anikeyev, head of the Russian delegation to the talks and deputy chairman of the Council of Nationalities, has informed members today of the council about preliminary results of the talks.

He said that the talks cover a wide range of issues of interparliamentary cooperation, including the fate of former Russian servicemen, who had been sentenced to death by the Azeri court.

"Today, it is possible to say that our requests and suggestions were met with understanding by leaders of the Azeri parliament," Anikeyev said. The Russian delegation met with chairmen of a number of commissions and committees of the Azeri parliament, the foreign minister and other officials. "So far, the talks have proceeded rather successfully," Anikeyev said.

At the same time he noted that the Azeri side has made some claims and put forward a number of proposals. According to Anikeyev, on Wednesday, the Russian parliamentary delegation is to have talks with the prosecutor general and chairman of the Azeri Supreme Court.

Fate of Servicemen Held in Azerbaijan Discussed

LD0306115993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1128 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Text] Moscow June 3 TASS—The Russian Parliament press service released a report on Thursday, saying the following:

"Russian Parliament Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov sent a letter on May 19 to Azeri National Assembly Speaker Isa Yunis Ogly Gamberov, asking him to display personal interest in the fate of six Russian servicemen convicted by the Azeri court.

"The Azeri National Assembly speaker treated with understanding the concern shown by his Russian counterpart and expressed readiness to participate personally in alleviating the fate of the Russian servicemen.

"The Russian speaker sent legislators led by Deputy Chairman of Russian Parliament Council of Nationalities A. Anikiyev to Azerbaijan to hold talks with National Assembly leaders.

"The sides achieved some progress in settling the issue which is of great importance to preserve the spirit of good-neighbourly relations and understanding between the two friendly states, noted Anikiyev on returning to Moscow on June 2.

"He arrived in the Russian capital for consultations with the Russian Parliament leaders on continuing the talks with Azeri parliamentarians."

Georgian Intelligence 'Recruiting Russian Citizens'

PM0206131893 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Jun 93 First Edition p 1

[Dmitriy Yermakov report: "Georgian Special Services Recruiting Russian Citizens"]

[Text] Sochi—Security Ministry staffers on the territory of the Republic of Adyge have detained several Russian citizens recruited by the Georgian special services to collect military-political information.

A special statement by the press services of the Russian Federation Security Ministry Krasnodar Kray Directorate and the Adyge Republic Security Ministry says that Georgia's information and intelligence service is coercing into secret cooperation Russian citizens who found themselves on Georgian-controlled territory in Abkhazia after the start of the Georgian-Abkhaz armed conflict. To this end they use blackmail, threats of physical reprisals, and statements on supposedly voluntary consent to recruitment made under duress. And, in addition, staffers of the Georgian information and intelligence service force these people to sign documents containing false information which would be published in the event of their refusing to cooperate further and could compromise the agents and entail grave consequences for them.

The recruits were tasked with collecting intelligence information in the North Caucasus region of the Russian Federation on national movements and social organizations and their leaders and other information, and transmitting it to the Georgian special services.

But, in view of the fact that the Russian citizens consented to cooperate with the Georgian information and intelligence service while in a hopeless situation and under threat of physical annihilation, and that they had taken no specific action to fulfill the missions with which they were tasked, the state security organs have not raised the question of criminal proceedings against them.

Tajik Spokesman on Civil War, Ties With Russia

MK0206120093 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 2 Jun 93 p 5

[Interview with R.K. Khasanov, press secretary of the Tajikistan Embassy in Moscow, with Viktor Mironov under the "Viewpoint" rubric: "August Coup a la Tajikistan—place and date not given; first passage correspondent's introduction]

[Text] Assessing the current status of Russia-Tajikistan relations and the importance of the bilateral agreements signed recently in Moscow, R.K. Khasanov, press secretary of the Tajikistani Embassy, said at the beginning of our conversation that the signing of the treaty between our two states was preceded by "an August coup a la Tajikistan."

[Khasanov] This treaty should have been signed on 2 September of last year. On the eve of that day, however, certain forces carried out an operation in Dushanbe to dismiss Rakhmon Nabiyev from power in order to prevent the treaty from being concluded. They staged an armed seizure of the president and his retinue at the Dushanbe airport.

[Mironov] Rakhim Karimovich, what "forces" are you speaking about?

[Khasanov] They were dubbed in the press the forces representing the so-called Islamic-democratic bloc. In reality, though, these were combat groups of the Islamic Revival Party. The development of relations with Russia and further integration of Tajikistan in the CIS ran counter to their interests. This is why they tried this last-resort measure to block this process.

[Mironov] What importance do you attach to the Moscow agreements?

[Khasanov] A very great importance. The draft treaty and the package of accompanying agreements were drawn up by specialists from both sides. The preparation of the documents regulating Russian- Tajik relations was equally important for both the Tajikistan Government and the opposition. We make no bones about the fact that Russia and other CIS countries constitute our priorities in Tajikistan's foreign policy. From this also stems the importance we attach to the Moscow agreements. They make it possible to raise Russian-Tajikistani relations to a qualitatively new level, because they encompass a whole range of economic, political, and military matters. I should emphasize that the agreements are of mutual benefit. Tajikistan, for instance, reserves large areas of land to grow cotton specially for Russia.

[Mironov] You touched upon the military aspect to the cooperation. What will it look like? What will happen to the 201st Division of the Russian Armed Forces and other Russian servicemen in Tajikistan?

[Khasanov] Tajikistan's national armed forces are already being set up. Military cooperation is undoubtedly envisioned. The 201st Division will continue to stay in Tajikistan. It played an important role in ending civil war in our country and acts a guarantor of stability and law and order. By helping to guard the key, strategically important facilities, in particular the Nurek hydroelectric power station, Russian servicemen averted the definite collapse of Tajikistan's economic potential. At present, they are providing significant assistance in eliminating the effects of a natural disaster in our country.

We are providing the Russian servicemen and members of their families with a whole package of social guarantees, which has been called for in the appropriate agreement. Furthermore, the 201st division will be financed by the Tajik side.

[Mironov] What is your assessment of the current situation in Tajikistan? What outside factors are at play there?

[Khasanov] I am glad to state that civil war is over. At least there are no large-scale hostilities under way. The sources of potential threat are located on the territory of Afghanistan. Rebels from the Islamic Revival Party have been more and more often attempting to penetrate into Tajikistan by crossing the border in small groups. Their aim is to create a springboard for committing armed sabotage. It should be pointed out that although they have not yet lost their desire of take revenge, their chances are negligible.

The events under way in Afghanistan directly affect the situation in Tajikistan. This is why our best interests lie in the stabilization in Afghanistan. Our southern neighbor has hoarded mountains of weapons, which will be enough for many decades to come. A new generation of Afghans has grown up, a generation of professional rebels. This is very dangerous. The Tajik side believes that the Afghans should straighten out their situation on their own. But we are prepared to help that country achieve national reconciliation. In this connection the question of Tajik refugees in Afghanistan arises. We are planning to repatriate via the city of Termez 15,000 to 20,000 people this year.

Generally speaking, however, Tajikistan is reaping the fruits of the Soviet reckless adventure of bringing troops into Afghanistan in 1979. Hence, it is a moral duty not of Tajikistan alone, but of all the former republics of the former USSR to defend the border with Afghanistan and to cut arms deliveries to the north.

[Mironov] And the last question—about the Russian-speaking population in Tajikistan.

[Khasanov] We do not have a problem of Russian-speakers as such in Tajikistan. What we are suffering is the tragedy of all the peoples populating this country. The events that took place here caused a process of migration. Russians, Uzbeks, Ukrainians, and Germans were leaving the country. I deeply regret that excellent professionals of the highest class have gone. At present, however, the outflow of people outside Tajikistan has fallen drastically. Numerous guarantees of social safety nets and human rights have been established in the signed agreement, too.

Government Leaders' Activities at Home, Abroad Listed

PM0106114593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 29 May 93 p 1

[Unattributed report under the "Executive Power: Monitoring" rubric: "Meetings, Visits, Trips"]

[Text] Although he is vacationing in Sochi, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin is still working. This was confirmed by his meeting and signing a number of documents with his Moldovan counterpart, Andrei Sangheli.

First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Labov met with a delegation from the city of Ivanovo—the center of Russia's textile industry. Then Oleg Lobov received Armenia's permanent representative in Moscow, with whom he discussed a number of matters of mutual interest. He had a conversation with the Uzbek ambassador. That republic is celebrating the anniversary of its signing a treaty of friendship and cooperation with Russia.

First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets flew to Karaganda, where he met with the leaders of mining enterprises in that major raw material region of Kazakhstan.

Deputy Prime Minister Boris Fedorov received Finland's ambassador. During the meeting they broached questions relating to mutual settlements between Russia and Finland.

Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Zaveryukha continued his working trip to Volgograd. The deputy prime minister focused his attention on discussing questions of agro-industrial production and agrarian reform.

Deputy Prime Minister Yuriy Yarov, who is winding up his visit to Vietnam, has an extremely tight schedule. He is the head of a Russian government delegation which has been discussing with its Vietnamese colleagues a number of highly important issues, including foreign trade and the further development of economic and trade ties between the two countries.

Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin is on a trip to Copenhagen, and Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays is in Vienna.

Moldova's Sangheli Procures New Loan

MK0106092093 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian No. 21, 1 Jun 93 (signed to press 31 May) p 2

[Ivan Andreyev report published under the "Agreements" rubric: "Moldovan Premier Visits Chernomyrdin in Sochi. Russia Grants a 90-Billion Credit to Moldova"]

[Text] Originally the sum that the Moldovan republic's Prime Minister Andrey Sangheli was going to ask in Moscow was to be between 70 billion and 80 billion. In the absence of the Russian premier, Andrey Sangheli managed to sign accords in Moscow only on social guarantees for the Russians living on Moldova's territory and for Moldovans living in Russia. Accords were also reached on collaboration in the sphere of transport and communications. On the evening of 27 May Sangheli unexpectedly decided to visit Chernomyrdin, who was vacationing in Sochi, so as not to miss an opportunity to agree on the credit.

Even the scanty reports provided by the press services of Councils of Ministers of both republics suggest that the talks have proceeded extremely well for the Moldovan side. The initial sum of the credit that Sangheli was going to ask was even surpassed in the final agreement by 10 billion, thus totaling 90 billion rubles: 50 billion as credit for 1993, and 40 billion as the recalculated 1992 credit.

"Now Moldova will repay all of its debts. We do not intend to live at somebody else's expense," Sangheli is quoted by ITAR-TASS as saying after the meeting with Chernomyrdin. Moldova will have to use the credit extended by Russia to pay its debt on Russia's 1992 credit of 9 billion rubles and also the debt to the Russian concern Gazprom—also approximately 10 billion rubles. Recently Moldova has undertaken attempts to find alternative sources of energy in Romania but the role of Russian natural gas is so great (out of 4.5 billion cubic meters Russia supplies 4.1 billion) that the republic had to return to Gazprom's services. Sources in the Russian Council of Ministers have described the granting of this credit as the beginning of a new stage in interrelations with the CIS republics. Although the extension of credits to the Commonwealth states is not totally useless for Russia itself—after all, Gazprom has a limited number of export options—the Russian Federation Government presumably hopes that part of the debts on the credits will be eventually returned. Meanwhile Moldova has announced its readiness to repay its debt with fruits and vegetables.

Foreign Ministry Statement on 'Military Coup' in Guatemala

LD0306080593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0630 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Text] Moscow, 3 Jun (ITAR-TASS)—The Russian Foreign Ministry today made a statement in connection with the latest events in Guatemala. It says:

"The Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs is closely following the evolution of events in Guatemala. We note with regret that their development confirms the world community's worst fears. Following President J. Serrano's introduction of emergency measures, characterized as a constitutional coup, a military coup was mounted in the country as a result of which the president himself was removed from power. We are against one form of breach of constitutional order being replaced by another form.

"A considerable proportion of the blame for what has happened lies, as we see it, with the Guatemalan president personally. He made significant effort to break the deadlock in the talks with the rebels and then himself placed the success of these initiatives in question by embarking on an open violation of the democratic foundations of the country's political life.

"We believe that the disruption of the constitutional process in Guatemala is even more dangerous in that it may deal a tangible blow to the democracies which have not yet taken root in other countries of the Central American region, lead to an increase in the activity of extremist and antigovernment groupings of both rightist and leftist orientation, and exert a negative influence on the progress of the final stage in the peace settlement in Central America. The present difficult situation will be a serious test for all Central American society.

"We do of course realize that the resolution of the Guatemalan problems is above all the prerogative of the Guatemalans themselves, but the need for the earliest restoration of democracy in that country requires, in our opinion, the help of the international community and the effective and coordinated use of the mechanisms of regional organizations, above all the OAS.

"We voice the hope that the Guatemalan authorities, including the command of the Armed Forces, will do

everything necessary to ensure the country's return in the shortest possible time to the road of democratic development and to the creation of conditions in which the observance of citizens' political and social rights will be guaranteed.

"For the sake of achieving this aim we are in contact with all the sides involved and intend to discuss the situation in Guatemala, along with other questions, in the course of the current visit of the Chilean president to our country."

Consular Issues Discussed With Cuba in Havana

LD0306094993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0930 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Text] Moscow June 3 TASS—The heads of consular services of the Russian and Cuban Foreign Ministries held consultations on consular issues in Havana on May 31 and June 1.

The Russian Foreign Ministry reports that the sides examined the state of bilatral relations in this sphere during the consultations. They decided to develop the legal basis conforming to the present stage in Russian-Cuban relations.

An understanding was reached to improve consuler relations in the spirit of cooperation and understanding.

Chubays Says G-7 Loans To Be Used for Privatization

MK0206115693 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 2 Jun 93 p 9

[Yelena Kotelnikova report: "Anatoliy Chubays Press Conference. State Committee for the Management of State Property Plans To Support Privatized Enterprises With G-7 Loans"]

[Text] **Holding that the privatization process is irreversible, chiefs of the State Committee for the Management of State Property find that it is high time to get down to tackling the strategic tasks of the "post-privatization period," in particular those relating to investment in publicly floated enterprises. This was stated by Vice Premier Anatoliy Chubays at yesterday's press conference on the outcome of a two-day working conference of G-7 specialists with Russian Government representatives. [subhead]**

The amount and terms of G-7 aid to Russia are to be finalized at the July summit. The Russian Government, however, has every grounds to believe that Russia will be getting a special loan worth $4 billion in support of privatization. Anatoliy Chubays, chairman of the State Committee for the Management of State Property, advised that his agency had started drafting plans on how to use this loan. According to him, the $4 billion form a financial fund in support of privatization whose idea had already been approved by U.S. President Bill Clinton.

The idea for the creation of the fund, Chubays stressed, is approved by the Russian president also. Chubays advised that a number of presidential edicts incorporating all the main provisions of the 1993 state privatization program would appear soon.

Chubays' hopes for the loan are buoyed by more than the presidents' personal support, but also by stabilization of the privatization process which, he thinks, is now protected "politically" and "legally." Chubays pointed out that attempts by opponents of the existing privatization concept to resist it at the top (the Supreme Soviet) and at the bottom (local soviets) had ended in "complete failure." Chubays stated that the dynamics of the smaller privatization (more than 50 percent of enterprises have been privatized to date) attests to the process' irreversibility. The process is likely to be completed by the end of 1993. Chubays is also optimistic about the future of the "bigger" privatization: Privatization checks will be exchanged for shares as early as 1993.

However, the strategic tasks of the State Committee for the Management of State Property incorporated in the 1993 draft state privatization program and dealing with support for privatized enterprises would require major investments. The State Committee for the Management of State Property is trying to solve this problem in part precisely with G-7 loans. Under the concept of the committee's chiefs, credits from the fund in support of privatization will be granted on strictly commercial lines to enterprises that have already been publicly floated. Plans call for the creation of the fund's branches in regions that will be dealing directly with specific enterprises. Committee chiefs think that credits will be available only to those enterprises that would be able to interest investors. This would serve to identify more quickly the circle of the most economically viable enterprises.

It became clear from what was said in the press conference that the operation of the proposed fund in aid of privatization will be based on the same principles as is the operation in Russia of other Western financial institutions, in particular the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Officials Deny Financial Aid Plan for Former Soviet States

LD0206134893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1328 GMT 2 Jun 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Petrenko and Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow June 2 TASS—Western reports on Russia's alleged plan to render financial aid to the former Soviet republics have not been confirmed by Russian officials.

The "FINANCIAL TIMES" reported this week that the Russian Government was urging the G-7 to set up a fund of many billions of U.S. dollars to aid the former Soviet

republics and had even promised to contribute to it one billion U.S. dollars from its own resources.

The Russian Finance Ministry has received these news with amazement. "We don't have any information about such a plan," ITAR-TASS was told by Deputy Minister Anatoliy Golovaty. As to Russia's alleged willingness to contribute one billion U.S. dollars to the fund, Golovaty said it was very problematic in the current financial situation.

The Russian Agency for International Cooperation and Development knows nothing about such an initiative, too. First Vice-Chairman of the agency Kirill Ivanov presumes that the West is probably trying to "explore the ground" in this way.

At the same time, trustworthy sources within the Russian Government say that the possibility of setting up a G-7 fund for some former republics of the USSR was examined lately at expert level. In their opinion, such a fund would be very advantageous for the Russian economy.

It is common knowledge that the bulk of G-7 credits are to be used to restore and develop the Russian fuel and power complex, which is "choking" from to a shortage of money. This is largely explained by the fact that the CIS countries get Russian oil and gas actually on credit and fail to pay for them on time and in the agreed sums.

If the G-7 was to set up a dollar fund for CIS countries, they could pay Russia for the already received oil and gas, and much less Western credits could be spent on the restoration of the Russian fuel and power complex.

Thereby, the money from G-7 credits would be actually received by Russia and not the CIS nations. At the same time, the commitments for these credits would be borne by the former republics of the USSR and not Russia.

It is still unknown whether this plan will be supported by the G- 7 nations or whether they will set up a hard currency fund to back the former republics of the USSR.

Kondratyev on Dangers of Afghan-Tajik 'Provocations'

LD0106100893 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 0810 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] The Russian Foreign Ministry has called on the Afghan leaders to stop armed provocations on the Afghan-Tajik border. Aleksey Kondratyev comments.

Russia and the Asian countries of the CIS have addressed such calls to the Afghan leaders and the United Nations more than once. Deplorably, neither Kabul nor the United Nations have taken any actions against those who violate the borders of Tajikistan. On the contrary, the number and scale of provocations have been growing. The attacks have become ever more daring and violent. Afghan mujahedin militants have taken part in attacks against Russian border guards protecting the border of Tajikistan under treaties concluded within the framework of the CIS.

In Afghanistan, there are dozens of camps training militants affiliated with religious and political organizations of Tajikistan, opposed to the current government. There has been more than enough evidence of aggressive actions by Afghanistan against Tajikistan but why has Kabul remained indifferent? As for the previous Afghan Government, the answer is more or less clear. It openly said that as internal political strife and hostilities in the country continued the situation went out of its control locally. A spokesman for the former Afghan Defense Ministry named some Afghan mujahedin groups training, arming, and guiding operations by Tajik militants. However, a new Afghan Government was formed just recently. The country has a president and prime minister. Apparently the Afghan authorities have enough power to put an end to any provocations against neighboring Tajikistan. The fact that ceasefire agreements in Afghanistan continue to be violated are no excuse for the inactivity of the authorities in Kabul.

The international community should also be more active as the most dangerous trouble spot is about to appear on the Tajik-Afghan border. There is a very great risk that hostilities may spill over to other Central Asian republics. The world may soon have a full-fledged armed conflict blazing on a vast territory from central Asia to southwest Asia to worry about unless the aggressors are stopped now. Moscow has issued a timely warning to Kabul that it is determined to defend the Tajik border with all the combat means available. It remains to be seen what steps Kabul will take to end provocations on the Tajik border and how soon.

Constitution & Political Issues

Agenda, Schedule for Constitutional Conference

LD0206194193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1610 GMT 2 Jun 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 2 Jun—The Russian Federation president's press service has circulated standing orders for the work of the constitutional conference. It will be held as plenary sittings and sittings of groups of representatives and a working commission.

The first plenary sitting will open at 1100 on 5 June, with the following agenda: "On a Draft New Constitution of the Russian Federation"—a report by Russian President Boris Yeltsin; "On the Amendments and Proposals Received From Citizens, Public Associations, and Bodies of State Power of the Russian Federation during the examination and discussion of the draft constitution of the Russian Federation"—report by Sergey Alekseyev, member of the Working Commission for Improving the Draft Constitution of the Russian Federation; and "On the Constitutional Conference's Working Procedure"—a report by Sergey Filatov, member of the working commission and head of the Russian presidential administration.

The concluding plenary sitting will be held at 1100 on 16 June, with the following agenda: "On the Results of Work To Improve the Draft Constitution of the Russian Federation." The groups of representatives will consider the draft constitution of the Russian Federation article by article, discussing the consolidated amendments submitted by the Working Commission for Improving the Draft Constitution of the Russian Federation. On completion of the work, each group of representatives will send to this commission the table of amendments, accompanied by the groups' decision on each of the amendments—"to support" or "to reject." If disagreements arise within groups of representatives as they discuss the amendments, the commission will act as a conciliatory commission. The text of the draft constitution is to be submitted to the president on 15 June.

Participants in the constitutional conference may study the materials of the constitutional conference, together with shorthand reports and decisions adopted by the groups of representatives. For this purpose all required materials are to be passed on to coordinators of the groups of representatives and to the executive working group of the Working Commission for Improving the Draft Constitution of the Russian Federation by 1000 the following day.

The work of the constitutional conference is to be directed by its chairman. The plenary sittings will be conducted by the president.

The conference will work from 1000 to 1800 each day, with breaks from from 1200 to 1300 and from 1500 to 1600. Consultations and conciliation procedures will take place from 1800 to 2100.

Yeltsin Issues Decree on Constitutional Conference

LD0306040193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0203 GMT 3 Jun 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 3 Jun—The press service of the Russian president has circulated the text of the decree of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, "On the Procedure for the Work of the Constitutional Conference." As it has already been reported, the conference is to take place 5-16 June in the Kremlin. It has been established that the members of the working commission for finalizing the draft constitution of the Russian Federation which has been formed in keeping with the Decree 660 of the Russian Federation President of 12 May, "On Measures To Complete the Preparations for the New Constitution of the Russian Federation," are participants in the Constitutional Conference.

It has been determined that the members of the working commission for finalizing the draft constitution of the Russian Federation are the coordinators of the groups of representatives: of the group of representatives of the federal bodies of state power, Viktor Chernomyrdin and Aleksandr Yakovlev; of the group of representatives of the bodies of state power of the republics within the Russian Federation, the krays, oblasts, autonomous oblasts, autonomous okrugs, the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg, Sergey Shakhray, Viktor Stepanov, and Anatoliy Tyazhlov; of the group of representatives of local self-administration, Yuriy Yarov and Boris Zolotukhin; of the group of representatives of the political parties, trade unions, youth and other public organizations, of the mass movements and confessions, Anatoliy Sobchak and Viktor Sheynis; of the group of representatives of the goods producers and entrepreneurs, Vladimir Shumeyko and Sergey Alekseyev.

The rules for the work of the constitutional conference have been ratified.

Zorkin To Attend Conference, Argue Against Judicial Office

LD0306103693 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 3 Jun 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Russian Constitutional Court Chairman Valeriy Zorkin plans to attend the constitutional conference due to open on 5 June. He announced this in an interview with the Ekho Moskvy radio station. The chairman of the Constitutional Court stressed that he is going to protest strongly against retaining in the new constitution

the institution of a judicial office [sudebnoye prisutstviye] as mentioned in the presidential draft. It will be a purely administrative body, Valeriy Zorkin stressed.

Khasbulatov May Attend if Conference 'Consultative'

PM0206132393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Jun 93 First Edition p 2

[Sergey Chugayev report: "R. Khasbulatov Has Submitted an Initiative To Hold a Referendum on Three Draft Constitutions"]

[Text] At a meeting with Russian journalists held 31 May in the Golden Room of the White House, Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Chairman R. Khasbulatov stated that he officially favors putting three draft Constitutions to a referendum—those of the president and the parliament and the one prepared by a group of Communists led by Russian Federation Deputy Yu. Slobodkin.

R. Khasbulatov was very skeptical about the prospects for the formulation of a single coordinated draft of the Russian fundamental law at the Constitutional Conference convened on the president's initiative. In the parliamentary speaker's opinion, there are currently three powerful groups in society united by common political views, each of which supports one of the three draft Constitutions, and this factor needs to be borne in mind.

Only a referendum, in R. Khasbulatov's opinion, can resolve the constitutional problem. At the same time the Supreme Soviet chairman stated that he is not ruling out the possibility that a Constitution will be adopted by a newly constituted Russian parliament. Thus, of the three options for adopting the Constitution proposed by the president, the speaker has categorically rejected only the idea of a Constitutional Assembly.

At the same time R. Khasbulatov's answers to the journalists' questions shed no light on when the next Congress of People's Deputies, at which a decision about the referendum will possibly be made, may take place. All the indications are that there will be no June Congress. Regarding the issue of the conference of representatives of all soviets opening 1 June, Khasbulatov stated that it should not be thought of as being similar to the Constitutional Conference. The only problems scheduled for discussion at the forum of soviets are those of local self-government. At the same time the head of the Russian parliament, as far as could be gathered from his answers, does not reject in principle the possibility that he will participate in the Constitutional Conference opening 5 June. But only if the conference sticks to a consultative role.

R. Khasbulatov was also asked a question about the current situation in the parliament and its presidium. In the speaker's opinion, a split is a normal situation in parliament. Regarding the positions adopted by the leaders of the parliamentary chambers and its other leaders, however, R. Khasbulatov described them thus: "Let them romp around for a bit and play at being grown-up politicians..."

Aide Volkov Sees Intention To Remove Yeltsin

MK0306100093 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 3 Jun 93 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Vyacheslav Volkov, deputy chief of the president's administration, by Aleksandr Budberg; place and date not given: "Khasbulatov's Agony. Vice President and Speaker Are Now Capable of Anything"]

[Text] The struggle for Russia's new constitution has entered a final stage. The bets are down; there are no more to make for the time being.

Vyacheslav Volkov is deputy chief of the president's personal administration, one of the people responsible for preparing the constitutional conference that is due to open the day after tomorrow and within 10 days work out the country's new fundamental law.

[Budberg] Vyacheslav Vasilyevich, how are you planning to organize the work of the conference?

[Volkov] There are two options. The first is that work will proceed in the chambers, that is to say, representatives of the Federation's components, the Constitutional Commission, small towns, public movements, trade unions, and manufacturers will consider amendments to the draft constitution separately and then in plenary sessions these amendments will be summed up.

The second option: If participants in the conference so wish, the conference can proceed in committees devoted to the basic sections of the Constitution: the state structure, federal authority, local self-government, justice, and interim statutes.

[Budberg] Which chambers do you think will support the president the most and which will cause the most problem?

[Volkov] In all likelihood, the greatest problems will occur with the Constitutional Commission's chamber, while support for the president will come from entrepreneurs and representatives of parties and public organizations. The president will apparently also be supported by leaders of local self-government bodies. After all, the mere fact that representatives of the "zemstvos" [elective district councils] have been invited to participate in the development of the fundamental law, that their interests have not been sacrificed to the interests of oblast authorities, should be received highly positively.

[Budberg] How will the final draft be enacted?

[Volkov] The text that the Constitutional Conference produces will be submitted to the president who will make the final decision—as to whether the draft is ready or not....

[Budberg] Will the proposed draft satisfy the president?

[Volkov] I am sure it will. Already at this stage some 60 percent of the constitutional conference participants intend to work based on the presidential draft. Another 25 percent are inclined to do the same.

There are three mechanisms for adopting the new constitution. All of them are widely known—a referendum, approval by a popularly elected constituent meeting, or approval by the congress in its present composition.

In order to avoid all sorts of "attacks" I think that the draft will be presented to the congress, but only according to the simple formula: "yes" or "no."

[Budberg] What are your forecasts?

[Volkov] Persistent work is under way with the deputy corps. If the president is supported by more than 650 deputies, the constitution will be adopted—but this is hardly likely. If the president's draft is supported by 350 deputies, then we could block any activity by the congress with respect to the constitution. If not, confrontation would reach the most dangerous level. Ruslan Imranovich has taken a liking to the draft constitution proposed by communist and socialist parties. And it is most probable that it (not even the Rumyantsev draft) will be accepted by the congress as a basis. To adopt a communist-oriented constitution after the referendum, however, means basically to start a civil war.

[Budberg] Can the president's team block the congress?

[Volkov] Apparently yes. There are already 250 "dedicated Yeltsinites." Given that the president is ready to take in the best features from all the drafts, many deputies are sure to meet him halfway.

[Budberg] Would the price paid for the new constitution not be exorbitant? Would Russia not disintegrate owing to the insatiable appetites of the Federation components who will demand too much in exchange for their support of the president?

[Volkov] The most delicate point is that the krays and oblasts might claim rights equal with the republics, but the republics would not agree to that. This issue would call for great caution and subtle diplomacy, but it could also be resolved in the process of joint work.

[Budberg] Essentially the president today is the sole pivot around which not only constitutional processes are unfolding but which is also holding the country together. Therefore at present presumably very many would be interested to see him removed literally by any means.

[Volkov] You are right. Most of all I am worried by the total unscrupulousness of the vice president who, having been stripped of all political functions, has now effectively become deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet.

When the congress was considering the question of presidential impeachment, I was sitting next to Rutskoy and could not help being amazed at how badly he wanted to become president. That did not happen at the time. Prior to the referendum he made another sortie, firing a volley of 11 shells—again that did not work. One would think that this was all. Any person with a modicum of self-respect must resign, yet he would not resign. And this makes me, as a common voter, wonder whether the vice president is not hatching plans to remove the president. And the nearer the adoption of the new constitution, the more likely it is that the fiery general in team with the hot-tempered speaker might undertake such an attempt.

[Budberg] How could Khasbulatov's position be assessed now?

[Volkov] As a state of agony. The best evidence of that was the meeting of deputies at all levels, a meeting that had not been summoned since 1936. Only 290 deputies of the Supreme Soviet were invited to this meeting, and moreover they were carefully selected by Khasbulatov himself.

'Sensations Unlikely' at Constitutional Conference

MK0306104693 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Jun 93 p 1

[Yevgeniy Krasnikov report: "Constitutional Conference: Sensations Unlikely. Special Presidential Edict To Be Issued on Eve of the Conference"]

[Text] The Constitutional Conference, which will open in Moscow on 5 June, by all appearances is unlikely to be marked by any sensations or by what the president's opponents may deem to be "an attempted coup." According to reports from people close to the president, the offensive zeal of Boris Yeltsin's loyalists has already fizzled out and the convention of the Constitutional Conference appears to be one of the [illegible] inertial steps of the "post-referendum offensive."

The work of the Constitutional Conference is unlikely to stir up broad public opinion, either. Most of its deliberations are expected to be held behind closed doors. The full plenary meeting on 5 June (which, to all appearances, will take no longer than half a day) is expected to hear two reports—by President Boris Yeltsin and Sergey Alekseyev, the author of a draft constitution, and also an address by Sergey Filatov on technical matters.

On the eve of the Constitutional Conference a special presidential edict is to be issued appointing Sergey Alekseyev director (chairman) of the Constitutional Conference, and also naming the chiefs of its five chambers. It transpired that on the initiative of the Federation components, the chambers will be formed not according to the subjects to be discussed, but according to the "professional" principle: representatives of the Federation components, parties, trade unions, manufacturers of goods, entrepreneurs, and so forth.

Its organizers hope that the Constitutional Conference will approve the presidential draft constitution and complete its work by 16 June. The president's follow-up actions are not quite clear yet. The likelihood of the lawful adoption of a version of the Constitution that would suit the president is not very high. It is extremely unlikely, however, that the presidential draft will win over 50 percent of votes of all the registered voters at a national referendum. If the president submits his document to the Russian Congress of People's Deputies, it would accumulate so many amendments that its substance would be completely changed. This is the reason for the particularly strong clout in the president's inner circle carried by those who insist that the Constitutional Conference be followed by a Constitutional Assembly, which will not only consider, but also adopt Russia's new constitution.

Given this possibility, supporters of the opposition and the centrists alike will evidently do their utmost to make the discussion of the presidential draft as difficult as possible. The president's opponents have plenty of opportunities to show, by making countless amendments and proposals, that the president's draft constitution is irrelevant and ineffective, as is the Constitutional Conference itself.

Popov Urges Adoption of 'Constitutional Law'

PM0206111693 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Jun 93 First Edition p 5

[Article by Gavriil Popov, chairman of the Russian Movement for Democratic Reforms: "What We Want From the Constitutional Conference"]

[Text] The Constitutional Conference assembles on 5 June. The main thing now is to formulate a plan for the conference.

Subject of the Conference

Success is possible only if the subject of the conference is very tightly circumscribed. In my view, each of the five chambers at the conference should resolve these main questions:

—whether to work on the draft Constitution as a whole or only those sections of it that are necessary for the adoption of an electoral law and the holding of elections (namely the sections on the president, the Federal Assembly, and the government). These sections would make up a Constitutional Law;

—which of the two officially submitted drafts—the Supreme Soviet's or the president's—should be taken as the basis of work.

The answer to the first question is predetermined by a number of documents [as published], chief among them the tight work schedule (elections must be held in the fall), the unfinished nature of both drafts, and the conflict surrounding them.

The Constitutional Conference chambers should therefore decide from the outset that they will examine only those sections of the draft that make up the Constitutional Law.

On the second question, the answer is also fairly self-evident. For all the shortcomings of the presidential draft, this is the draft that should be taken as the basis of the Constitutional Law. The subject of the sessions of the Constitutional Conference chambers would then be to formulate the main amendments to three sections of the presidential draft Constitution (Articles 70-112).

Work Procedure

The Constitutional Conference should clearly define its own place in the constitutional process as a whole.

The first stage is the adoption of amendments to the presidential draft. I propose the following procedure for their adoption.

On each of the two questions (Constitution or Constitutional Law? Presidential draft or Supreme Soviet draft?) there will be two views in each chamber.

Therefore, each chamber appoints 15 representatives in the following proportion: 10 for the majority view, five for the minority view.

In this way the Constitutional Conference Conciliation Bureau (of 75 people) is formed from representatives of the five chambers.

It will then form three sectors—for the three sections of the draft: on the president, the Federal Assembly, and the government. The sectors work on the three sections. The bureau as a whole approves the final version of the amendments and submits it to the president.

The president, taking into account the amendments, prepares a draft Constitutional Law and submits it to the Congress of People's Deputies.

The prestige of the Constitutional Conference will probably be sufficient for the Congress to adopt the Constitutional Law and the associated Electoral Law.

If there is not a quorum at the Congress, the constitutional option for adopting laws lapses. The powers of both the Congress and the Supreme Soviet also lapse. And the remaining legitimate branch of power—the president—issues an edict on elections to a Constituent Assembly.

If the Congress has a quorum and rejects the presidential draft Constitutional Law, the route remains the same—an edict on elections to a Constituent Assembly.

The most difficult situation arises if the Congress rejects the draft edict too. Then the president is left with only one option—to conduct a poll of the population on the draft Constitutional Law. And to act in accordance with the results of that poll.

Amendments to the 'Federal Assembly' Section

In the presidential draft Constitution one of the basic ideas of the Soviet Constitution prevails—that the two chambers of parliament are equal, examine the same issues in parallel, govern the country jointly, and have a common leadership (presidium and chairman). When a single Central Committee was behind parliament, two equal chambers were convenient—the power of the arbiter, the CPSU, was guaranteed. But in conditions where the state power became the authority, then duplication, confusion, and dyarchy arose.

It is therefore necessary rigorously to implement the principle of democratic republics which have a complex regional structure. In such states—federal states as well as ordinary democratic republics—there is the main, lower chamber, whose deputies are elected directly by the entire population. And in order to take account of the interests of regions (states, republics, provinces, etc.), a second, upper chamber is elected. This "checks" the decisions of the lower chamber to see that they take account of not only the interests of the majority of the country's citizens (as represented in the results of voting in the lower chamber), but also the interests of individual components of the federation. The upper chamber does not, as a rule, adopt decisions itself: It delays, sends back, or temporarily suspends the decisions of the lower chamber.

At the moment this principle is violated in the draft.

It must be clearly enshrined that there is a lower and an upper chamber; the lower decides, the upper amends.

The formation of the chambers is also worthy of comment. The State Duma is elected solely from constituencies. With this system—known as the majority system—a political party can enjoy the support of 30 percent of the population yet not have a single deputy, if it does not win in any one constituency. What kind of stability can this bring the country? Why is the principle of pluralism, the multiparty principle, ignored, as it was in the days of the CPSU? So the parties are weak? They are not going to grow strong if they are kept out of power. So there are a lot of small parties, with just a couple of hundred members? A selective principle could apply: In order to get on the voting list, a party must collect signatures from 0.5 percent of the total number of voters in Russia. And only those that win more than 5 percent of the votes would enter parliament.

Without party control, without the parties being entitled to recall their deputies, it will not be possible to form strong factions and regulate the Duma's work. A deputy elected on a personal basis is less protected against pressure from commercial or, indeed, corrupt bodies.

The Federation Council, in the draft, is elected on the basis that 50 percent of the seats are given to the republics within Russia. The remaining 50 percent go to all the Russian [russkim] krays and oblasts. Of course, the republics should have full autonomy regarding the system within themselves: their own Constitution, a system with or without a president, and so forth. Individual republics, if they so desire, could have the right to secede from the Russian Federation, while others could conclude additional treaties with the Russian Federation. It is therefore necessary to amend those articles of the draft Constitution that deal with the correlation between the rights of the Federation and its components. But the role of the republics within Russia cannot be elevated, giving them the right to have a decisive influence on the lives of more than 100 million Russians [russkikh]. That would not be a federal state, but a union state.

Therefore the upper chamber—like the U.S. Senate—should include two representatives from each Federation component, that is, the components should have equal representation.

Amendment to the 'Government' Section

An important achievement of the presidential draft Constitution is the separation of the functions of head of state from the functions of head of the administration. On the other hand, the government also obtains substantial independence from the Federal Assembly. A strong administration emerges.

At the same time the way this principle is realized in the articles of the draft Constitution is overcomplicated. The president's role in relation to the government is exaggerated, and the role of the Federal Assembly unduly curtailed. The role of the head of government is also diminished.

The lower, lawmaking chamber is totally excluded from approving the head of government. Yet it has to adopt the appropriate laws to back up his policy. Instead, the Constitution enshrines a situation in which war between lawmakers and government is predetermined.

There is one solution—make all deputies responsible for approving the head of government, that is, let him be approved by both chambers.

The Federal Assembly—under the presidential draft—is entitled to dismiss the head of government. I believe that the government's rights should be strengthened in this instance. It should be stipulated, for instance, that the Federal Assembly is entitled, on its own initiative, within its elected term, to dismiss up to three heads of government. The third such decision means new elections for the Federal Assembly itself. And it may only raise the question of dismissing the head of government when 10 months have elapsed since he was approved.

Officers Union To Take Part in 5 Jun Rallies

LD0206171093 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] The Officer's Union intends to take part in the rallies that the opposition will hold in Moscow on 5 June—the day the constitutional conference opens, the

chief of the headquarters of the Officer's Union Valeriy Vabrovnikov reported at a news conference today.

The speaker pointed out that the opposition should defend positions capable of creating a normal socialist system in the country, ITAR-TASS reports.

Parliament's Mityukov on Draft Constitutions

MK0206112093 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 2 Jun 93 p 4

[Interview with Mikhail Mityukov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Legislation Committee, by Konstantin Katanyan; place and date not given: "Drafts for a Transitional Period"]

[Text] [Katanyan] Are there really so many flaws in the draft proposed by the constitutional commission that the presidential draft leads us closer to a democratic state based on the rule of law?

[Mityukov] The presidential draft has appeared because the constitutional process has dragged on for too long. For three years parliament and the constitutional commission have failed to finalize work on the Fundamental Law.

In addition, the draft dubbed the "Rumyantsev" draft does not today satisfy many political forces (both of left and right orientations). And finally, the socioeconomic transformations have gone so far that they call for substantial constitutional formalization.

The existing Constitution, with many amendments and changes to which I have made a certain contribution, has failed to remove the main contradiction—between the principle of the division of powers and the omnipotence of the representative bodies, which creates a juridical basis for the deepening of the constitutional crisis.

[Katanyan] As a lawyer and chairman of the legislation committee, could you describe the strong and weak points of the presidential draft constitution?

[Mityukov] It would be more appropriate to analyze the strong and weak points of this draft in comparison with the constitutional commission's draft. From a juridical point of view, the presidential draft has been executed in a more qualified manner; it is presented in clear-cut, intelligible language, and it gives a clear definition of many provisions—in contrast to the vaguely worded draft of the constitutional commission, which is very difficult to read and about which some wits in parliament are saying that it needs three professors to explain what is meant.

Over the two years of discussion the constitutional commission has not decided whether the Federation Treaty should be included in the text of the Constitution in full or whether only some of its provisions should be incorporated. The president has included the Federation Treaty into his draft as a separate section, thereby setting an example for the constitutional commission.

The value of the initiative [initsiativnyy] draft is also that it puts human rights first, which is the crux of the Fundamental Law. It provides for a more clear-cut separation of powers. But unfortunately this clarity is sometimes achieved at the expense of upsetting the balance of powers, which gives the critics of the presidential draft grounds to assert that it is pro-monarchy.

[Katanyan] You do not share this point of view?

[Mityukov] No, I do not. Yet there is a need to define more clearly the balance between the executive and the legislative branches.

In my opinion, the draft offers a very laudable definition of the president's place in the state's political structure.

[Katanyan] In other words, that he is placed above all the branches of power, as it were?

[Mityukov] And he acts as arbiter over particular branches of power. These positive features of the president's draft are visible even at a cursory examination.

[Katanyan] You have also promised to speak about the negative features of the draft.

[Mityukov] In my opinion, there are some superfluous provisions there. Take, for instance, the Supreme Judicial Office [prisutsviye], which limits the functions of the Constitutional Court. This has apparently been influenced by the present political situation and the Constitutional Court's practice which does not always please the president. It does not, however, always accommodate parliament either. A court is a court, and one of the sides is always discontent with it.

The role of the representative body of power has not been given a sufficiently clear definition. This enables critics of the draft to speculate on the thesis of people's power being replaced by absolutism. In my view, it would be well-advised to specify clearly that parliament is the sole standing legislative body, removing all speculation about the president's claims to the role of a parallel lawmaker. The functions of parliamentary committees and commissions should also be defined more clearly.

The presidential draft might also be criticized for lacking a clear-cut definition of mechanisms for direct exercise of power by the people, for example, the elections. In spite of all these general shortcomings of the presidential draft, however, I still believe that it is a fairly adequate working document that could serve as a basis for further work and development, and at any rate can seriously compete with the "Rumyantsev" draft.

[Katanyan] Many people are talking about competition of the drafts. What if the two drafts were merged into one, with the best features of both documents being selected?

[Mityukov] Being eclectic does not make a document perfect. It is necessary to work on one particular draft,

and, having eliminated its drawbacks, present it to the Congress of People's Deputies for adoption.

[Katanyan] Only to the congress? Or do you also allow the creation of some other body to adopt a new constitution?

[Mityukov] There are two stages in this question. The stage of discussion and finalization of the document, and the stage of its adoption. At the first stage a constitutional conference could be used. Grounds for this, in my opinion, are provided under, among others, Article 185 of the Constitution, which calls for the synchronizing of draft laws pertaining to federative relations with the Russian Federation components. Therefore the constitutional conference should not be rejected as such. This idea has matured in public consciousness and it should be used.

[Katanyan] Does it not seem to you that the adoption of the new constitution could be entrusted to a newly elected federal parliament?

[Mityukov] The problem hinges on the referendum results. I am a lawyer and I must interpret the results of the nationwide vote as a rejection of early elections of both the president and the deputies. Although the number of votes is different, neither the third nor the fourth questions received a constitutional majority. As far as I am concerned, I have always thought and I still think that new elections are needed to overcome the crisis. But we must take the will of the people into account. And since new elections may only be held after the adoption of a new constitution and a new election law, this means that these documents should be adopted as soon as possible in order finally to break the vicious legal cycle.

Burbulis' Center Discusses Constitution Tactics

PM0306113493 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 3 Jun 93 p 2

[Lyubov Tsukanova report: "'Strategiya' Formulates Tactics"]

[Text] To what extent does the present constitutional process amount to real work on the state's fundamental document, and to what extent is it a continuation of the prolonged political crisis? Is the post-referendum political situation a fundamentally new situation, now that not only the president and his supporters among society's democratic forces, but also the majority of voters have said "no" to the old Soviet state political system and "yes" to a radical reform of Russia's social system? Will the method of formulating and adopting the state's Fundamental Law be decisive for the future functioning of that law and its implementation by society? Is the present participation of various political forces in the constitutional process not in actual fact the start of a new election campaign? Finally, do the politicians realize that in the current political process there is a limit to how far it is possible to disregard the real state of the economy, and that the events of fall 1993 depend to a great extent not on the results of the Constitutional Conference's work and the decisions adopted by the Congress of People's Deputies, but on the state of money circulation in the country?

These and other equally pressing questions were the subject of discussion at the "Strategiya" ["Strategy"] International Humanitarian and Political Science Center, whose head is Gennadiy Burbulis. The object of the discussion was, however, not pure theoretical speculation, but the formulation of possible tactics for the president at the forthcoming Constitutional Conference.

The majority of the lawyers, political scientists, and people's deputies who took part in the debate were not inclined to see the adoption of a new Constitution as an immediate goal and the Constitutional Conference as a realistic and practicable mechanism for finalizing and agreeing on it. A more realistic task for that body is to formulate and agree on some kind of constitutional act for the transitional period (a "lesser" Constitution or a temporary Constitutional Law), which would not broach the most complex and contentious problems for which there is today no unequivocal solution that suits everyone (the federal system, and so forth), but would settle the problem of the federal authorities' structure and the division of power between them (a constitutional act or a law on power). This constitutional act could clarify the areas of jurisdiction of the Federation's components for the transitional period, determine the structure of the new legislative organ, and formulate rules for the election of a new parliament.

However, as in the case of the Constitution itself, the question of a legitimate method of adopting any constitutional act remains open. Its adoption by the Congress of People's Deputies is doubtful. On the other hand, the right of the Congress, which did not receive confirmation of its legitimacy in the referendum, to make decisions on the Constitution is itself doubtful. Obviously the idea of blocking the Congress' work is unrealistic—the democratic deputies' factions do not have sufficient strength. Initiating a referendum is possible, but setting the date and formulating the questions is also the prerogative of the Congress. In essence, as G. Burbulis put it, the most realistic task for the Constitutional Conference is to "set our sights higher," to raise the level of dialogue within the political structure and draw up a document of recommendations to the president and the Supreme Soviet on ways of reorganizing the supreme organ of legislative power in the conditions of the transitional period. Will the Constitutional Conference be able to fulfill that task? Many participants in the debate have doubts about this ("the conference is a clone of the Congress"). But there is also an optimistic view: The Constitutional Conference is the material embodiment of the president's initiative; today the initiative is indisputably in his hands, and the start of the struggle for a new Constitution is the beginning of the road to forming a new Russian statehood.

Muscovites Polled on Draft Constitution

MK0206114093 Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 2 Jun 93 p 1

[Report by Professor V. Komarovskiy, head of the Ekspress sociological service: "New Russian Constitution. What Do I Think About It?"]

[Text] Much is being written and said today about the drafts of Russia's new constitution, but for the most part opinions are expressed by political and public leaders, lawyers, and so forth. The questionnaire proposed by the sociological service Ekspress, working at MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA, has given the man in the street an opportunity to assess the presidential draft of the Fundamental Law of our state and name methods for adopting it. The proposals made by the readers are all the more important since they are made in the approach to the constitutional conference to whose address, according to official reports, the greatest number of proposals for amendment have come precisely from common citizens of Russia.

Therefore we give the results of answers to the first question: "Did you manage to get acquainted with the text of the new draft constitution of the Russian Federation proposed by the president?" (in percentage to the overall number of those who have sent in the questionnaires):

read carefully—83
read in a cursory manner—13
not read it—4

Of course, we are aware that it is hardly possible to call all those who have responded to the questionnaire "common citizens," but it is indisputable that it was precisely the politically active citizens—after the referendum it has become trendy to call them "politically advanced"—who have shared their opinions on the draft constitution presented for assessment to the Russian people. This is how they responded to the second question on the list: "Do you approve of the proposed draft?"

approve fully, in the main—24
partially approve, partially do not approve—36
do not approve—40
not sure—0

What are the most characteristic statements by those who did not support the presidential draft? What seem to be its unacceptable, worrying aspects?

"Too much of what is superfluous, purely declarative things. The president has prepared the constitution to suit himself, forgetting about the responsibility for the integrity of the state and well-being of the people." "It is extremely worrying that the draft envisions a substantial strengthening of presidential powers and reduction of powers of the representative branch. And what if a tyrant becomes president? Then we would have the toughest dictatorship on our hands." "We are fed up with dictatorship; we have already passed through autocracy; power must really belong to the people." "Russia must be a parliamentary and not a presidential republic." "The main thing is to have a strong government under parliamentary control." "I do not see any equality or connection between the two chambers; the voting procedure is unclear; the role of the oblasts has been diminished."

Judging by the data presented in the table, a large number of those who are thinking about the drafts of the Fundamental Law have no doubt that the presidential draft should be accepted as a basis for further work since it is more consistent, concise, and clear-cut. They reject the suppositions that it allegedly gives an insufficient reflection of human rights as totally groundless. Here are extracts from just two letters: "The new constitution is absolutely right to abolish the Congress of People's Deputies; it must not be reanimated in any event—this is why I support the presidential draft. (Ya. Kruchinin, 15 Vinokurova Street)."

"I fully approve of the presidential constitution and I want it to be adopted as soon as possible. (Grishina, war and labor veteran)."

Fairly representative is the group of readers who decided to make their comments on certain provisions and articles of the new constitution. In particular it is proposed that Article 74 should give a clear-cut and accurate definition of the instances when the president may dissolve parliament; the articles of Chapter 5 on the Federal Assembly should provide for greater powers to the legislative branch; Article 80 should establish not the president as arbiter in dispute between state bodies and the Russian Federation's components, but the Constitutional Court. We intend to publish readers' proposals on the new constitution in full in the future, but here we would only like to note that the "private" amendments are diverse and they show that an absolute majority of the respondents have more than carefully studied the presidential draft, while some of them, like, for instance L. Gordon, even compared it with other drafts—the "Rumyantsev" draft and the draft prepared by the Shatalin group.

Analyzing the questionnaires received, one can observe the following logic in the answers to different questions: In most cases those who support and approve of the presidential draft propose that it should adopted by the constituent meeting or the constitutional assembly, while those who do not like the draft insist that the new constitution must be adopted by the Congress of People's Deputies or the Supreme Soviet. Please note the distribution of answers to the fourth question on the list: "Who do you think should be entrusted to adopt the new Russian Constitution?" (in percentage):

the congress of people's deputies—44
the Supreme Soviet—19
the constituent meeting (constitutional assembly)—30
representatives of the Federation's components—10
a nationwide referendum—17

some other body—5
difficult to say—0

Overall, apparently tired of the dual power situation or rather of the absence of proper law and order, the readers are unanimous in their judgment that "the constitution must be adopted as a matter of urgency; the dual power situation must be stopped. Onward!"

The new constitution indeed is called upon to open up the way for reform and to pacify society. As is known from the theory of democracy, the latter is only possible on condition of accord's being reached over the aim of social development, the nature of the political regime, and rules of the game—in this case the procedure of adopting the constitution—and accord that compromise is preferable to conflict. The entirety of the aforesaid results shows that there is no other way out except through compromise, both in terms of content and in terms of adopting the constitution. Attempts by one side to impose its opinion on another would only aggravate contradictions, intensify discord, and would mean that hope for the success of economic reform in Russia would hang in mid-air.

'Alternative' Constituent Conference Opens

LD0306060893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0548 GMT 3 Jun 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Alexandrova]

[Text] Moscow June 3 TASS—An opposition constituent conference opens at the parliamentary centre of the Russian Federation today. It will be held by the opposition forces as an alternative to the constituent conference convened on the initiative of the president, which is due to open on June 5.

The organisers of today's conference include the Public Committee for the Defence of the Constitution and the Constitutional System, the Russian Unity Opposition Parliamentary Bloc, the Russian Popular Union, the National Salvation Front, Labour Russia and the Communist Party of the Russian Federation. According to its organisers, the opposition conference will be attended by about 2,000 people representing 50 parties, movements and organisations, as well as people's deputies of all levels.

The conference "will discuss the constitutional process", a spokesman for the press centre of the conference told ITAR-TASS.

Yeltsin To Sign Degree on Personnel Policy Council

LD0206151193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1400 GMT 2 Jun 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Podyapolskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 2 Jun—Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin will shortly sign a decree "On Priority Measures To Reorganize the System of State Service in the Russian Federation." This was announced today by Vladimir Shumeyko, first deputy chairman of the Russian Government, at a meeting with journalists. According to him, the document provides for the creation of a new body, the Personnel Policy Council under the President [Sovet po Kadrovoy Politike pri Prezidente]. No appointment will be made to senior posts in Russian Federation state administration bodies without a decision from this council.

The council, which will have to devise a personnel policy blueprint and select and redeploy personnel within the system of bodies of supreme state power, will be headed by two co-chairmen—Sergey Filatov, head of the Russian Federation president's administration, and Vladimir Shumeyko.

Coalition Agreement of Centrist Forces Issued

LD0206213893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2055 GMT 2 Jun 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow June 3 TASS—A coalition agreement of the centrist forces was presented on Wednesday [2 June] for signing.

It was "the People's Party - Free Russia", led by Aleksandr Rutskoy, Russian vice-president, and "the All-Russia Union of Renovation" who came out with the initiative for creation a larger-scale centrist coalition as compared to "the Civic Union".

Besides them, the Socialist Party of the Workers, the Party of Labour, the "Change - New Policy" parliamentary faction, several feminist organizations and over a dozen of not-so-prominent political organizations and unions.

Gaydar Cited on Return; Shumeyko on Cabinet Changes

LD0206214393 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Excerpts] Former Russian Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar has become the president of the all-Russian Association of Enterprises, an association of privatized and private enterprises. In Moscow today he spoke about the activities of this organization:

[Begin Gaydar recording] The association's task is very simple: The future of Russia, of stability in our development today depends on stability in the private property relations that are developing. The association is not a political organization, does not set itself the task of making statements on all political issues or of participating in the changing stages of the political process. At the same time, naturally, the owner of private property, the private enterprise have their political interests and naturally we will try to protect them, including by

supporting those genuine political structures and organizations whose activities coincide with the interests of the private sector taking shape in the Russian economy.

As regards the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs headed by Mr. Volskiy, I do not see here pressing, fundamental grounds for antagonism. I believe that we are open for cooperation. [end recording]

Answering a question about his possible return to government, Yegor Gaydar said:

[Begin Gaydar recording] There is such talk, but neither the president nor the prime minister have broached the subject with me. I think that now such government reshuffles would be extremely unrealistic and not very useful. [end recording]

First Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Shumeyko described today the attitude of the members of the Cabinet themselves to the idea of Gaydar's return:

[Begin Shumeyko recording] There are as many supporters as opponents of Gaydar's return to the government, for different reasons independent of Yegor Timurovich's personality. [end recording]

Yet Vladimir Shumeyko believes that changes in the composition of the government are quite possible:

[Begin Shumeyko recording] There is this likelihood and it is a strong one. Today or tomorrow a decree will be signed by the president of the Russian Federation called "On Priority Measures for Organizing a System of State Service in the Russian Federation." [end recording] [passage omitted]

Vladimir Shumeyko also gave his view of the problem of the continuing fall of the ruble:

[Begin Shumeyko recording] The dollar rate is not linked to inflation. The thing is that the Central Bank is simply increasing its currency and gold reserves and is buying up both by means of issuing money. I think we will definitely examine this question at a government meeting because, in my view, the situation is already beyond reasonable limits. [end recording]

Economic & Media Issues

Chernomyrdin Signs 'Instruction' on Agriculture

LD0206120293 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0900 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] Viktor Chernomyrdin has signed a Russian Government instruction aimed at the organized completion of the harvest and the procurement of feed in 1993. In accordance with the document, executive bodies must organize work to conclude contracts, on mutually beneficial terms, between agricultural, industrial and other enterprises, irrespective of their departmental affiliation and form of ownership, and on the deployment of trucks in the harvesting and procurement of feed.

Shumeyko Previews Decree on Curbing Inflation

LD0306082293 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0700 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Text] According to Vladimir Shumeyko, first deputy prime minister of the Russian Government, a presidential decree on curbing inflation is being prepared. The document will defer the introduction of a number of legislative acts and certain government resolutions which increase budget expenditures. Vladimir Shumeyko noted that the cabinet's main task is still the battle against inflation and bringing it down to 5-7 percent by the end of the year. Vladimir Shumeyko named the implementation of defense industry conversion and increasing the output of food, consumer goods, and gas industry products among the main priorities.

Abolition of Oil Products Price Ceiling Protested

PM0206125193 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 1 Jun 93 First Edition p 4

[Unattributed report: "Trade Unions Demand Suspension of Edict"]

[Text] The press secretary of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia [FITUR] has made a statement in connection with the Russian Federation president's edict which abolishes the retail price ceiling for oil products set for the year 1993 by another presidential edict not long before the referendum.

In particular it mentions that FITUR experts have concluded that the new prices for oil products will not resolve the key sectors' problems but will only make inflation worse and will lead to enterprises' insolvency and bankruptcy and to mass unemployment.

The consistent refusal to honor the promises and guarantees given on the eve of the referendum, the statement says, creates a feeling of great instability. This approach gives rise to doubts that basic rights and freedoms can be guaranteed and in the authorities' sincerity to strive to be governed by any Constitution at all, whatever version of it were to be adopted. Therefore, the trade union proposed examining as a matter of urgency the question of suspending the effect of the president's edict at a session of the tripartite commission on 28 May.

Ruble Falls to 1,050 to Dollar in Interbank Dealing

PM0206140293 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Jun 93 First Edition p 4

[Unattributed, untitled report on 1 June trading on Moscow Interbank Currency Exchange]

[Text] The latest dealing on the Moscow Interbank Currency Exchange, on 1 June, yielded the following results: The rate for transactions was fixed at a level of 1,050 rubles [R] to the U.S. dollar (at the last session it was 1,024), and the volume of transactions totaled

$51.79 million. The volume of preliminary applications for the sale of hard currency was equal to $40.94 million, while the volume of preliminary applications for its purchase was $54.93 million. Sixty-one commercial banks took part in the dealing. On the currency cash market, as always recently, the transaction rate exceeds the transaction rate on the exchange. Today the commercial banks are buying and selling hard currency at R1,150-1,200 to the U.S. dollar.

Economist Reports Commodity Price Shifts

PM0206161193 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 1 Jun 93 p 7

[Article by Irina Goryacheva, chief of the Price Analysis and Forecasting Administration of the Center for Economic Conditions under the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government, under the "Statistics" rubric: "The Indexes of Inflation and Prices. How They Changed in One Week"]

[Text] The overall index of inflation in the last week stood at 105 percent (245 percent since the beginning of year), which is the largest it has been in the period since the beginning of March.

The trend for price rises in nonorganized trade to outstrip those in organized trade is continuing.

The average cost of a basket of 19 of the most important food products came to a monthly equivalent of 9,782 rubles [R], which is 6 percent higher than a week ago.

The volume of sales of basic food commodities rose by 5 percent by comparison with the last registration.

From 11 through 18 May prices of basic food commodities grew by 5.3 percent, which includes a 4.9-percent price increase in organized trade and a 7.5-percent price increase in nonorganized trade. The biggest price rises over the last week were on fruit and vegetables—20 percent and 8 percent respectively; bread and flour products and meat products—7 percent; and on sugar—5 percent. The smallest increases (1-3 percent) were on dairy products, butter, vegetable oil, flour, macaroni, hulled and ground products and confectionery items, vodka, and tobacco products.

In the period since the beginning of the year across Russia as a whole the biggest price increases have been recorded as follows: for meat and dairy products prices rose by a factor of three and 2.6; fish products and fruit—by a factor of 2.5; butter—by a factor of 2.3; and eggs and sugar—by a factor of 2.2 and two.

A substantial differentiation continues to be maintained in the movement of prices according to individual economic regions. In one-half of the regions the growth of prices exceeded the average level for Russia as a whole; these include the Far East region, where prices grew by 8 percent over the week; the West Siberian, North Caucasian, and Northern regions, where the increase was 7 percent; and the East Siberian region, where it was 6 percent. The cost of basic food commodities increased least of all in the Central-Chernozem region (2.4 percent) and the Volga and Urals regions (3.5 percent).

Following the reduction in the volume of commodity sales connected with the decline in post-holiday consumer activity at the beginning of May, when the volume of food sales fell 6 percent, it increased by 5 percent in the last week and corresponded to the end-of-April level. For commodities subject to the administrative regulation of prices the rise in volume came to 7 percent, while it was only 2 percent on commodities not subject to regulation.

The largest growth in the sale of food products was in the Volga-Vyatka and the Central-Chernozem regions—37 percent and 25 percent respectively (a week ago these regions recorded reductions of 13 percent and 18 percent respectively). The volume of goods sold in the Volga, Urals, and Far East regions increased by 5-8 percent. At the same time in the course of May the downturn in the sale of food products continued in the East Siberian and the Northern and Northwestern regions, amounting to 20, 9, and 7 percent respectively over the past three weeks.

A growth in sales was recorded for 51 of the 70 food commodities surveyed. On registration day—18 May—11 percent more meat products, 8 percent more hulled and ground products and flour, and 5 percent more edible fats and tobacco products were sold than a week ago. The smallest sales growth (1-4 percent) was recorded for bread, flour, and confectionery products, dairy produce, sugar, and eggs. Only fish products and vegetables saw a fall in sales during the week, and then only in organized trade.

The past week saw no substantial changes in the saturation of the consumer market. Butter, milk, and sour cream were on sale everywhere. The availability of meat products and hulled and ground products (rice, semolina, and millet) improved somewhat.

Prices in nonorganized trade increased by 7.5 percent in the period 11 through 18 May. An average weekly price rise in excess of 7 percent has been recorded on the markets over the last three weeks. At the same time, fish products, butter, eggs, and sugar were put on sale in the markets at prices lower than one week ago.

Over the past week the growth of prices on city and informal markets outstripped the price increases in organized trade in virtually all economic regions (except for the North Caucasus and Far East).

The biggest price increases were in the Northern and Volga-Vyatka regions—13 and 11 percent respectively. However, this increase in food product prices in nonorganized trade has had virtually no effect on the overall rise in the cost of food in these regions, owing to the insignificant proportion of the sale of these products on the markets by comparison with organized trade.

The increase in market prices in the Central-Chernozem and East Siberian regions was more significant; here the growth in prices came to 9 percent, and their share of the total volume of food sales amounted to 26 and 19 percent respectively.

The average cost of a basket of 19 of the most important food products as of 18 May came to a monthly equivalent of R9,782 and posted a rise of 6 percent by comparison with the previous registration, and 120 percent by comparison with last December. The cost of this basket at organized trade prices amounted to R8,898, and at nonorganized trade prices—R13,215, or 49 percent more.

As was the case a week ago, as of 18 May the maximum cost of the basket at different Russian cities was three times greater than the minimum cost.

The biggest differentiation in the cost of the basket was recorded in the East Siberian region—a factor of 2.3: The biggest price was to be found in Irkutsk—R12,285—and smallest in Norilsk, at R5,368.

Last week the basket of most important food products cost most in cities of the Far East region—Vladivostok (R17,215), Magadan (R16,562), and Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy (R15,971). And the cities of the Volga region remain the cheapest—Ulyanovsk (R5,112), Naberezhnyye Chelny (R6,271), and Sterlitamak (R6,424).

In 25 of the 132 cities surveyed the growth in the cost of the basket over the week was in excess of 10 percent. The basket of food products increased in price most of all in Orel—29 percent; Tver and Arkhangelsk—28 percent; and Gorno-Altaysk—22 percent.

In Moscow and St. Petersburg the cost of the basket over the past week grew less than the average increase in Russia. As a result, as of 18 May Moscow moved from 16th to 18th place and St. Petersburg from 21st to 27th place in the list of the most expensive cities.

Government Spending 'Moratorium' Planned

PM0306105593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 1 Jun 93 p 7

["Statement on the Economic Policy of the Government and the Central Bank of Russia," signed by V. Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government, and V. Gerashchenko, chairman of the Central Bank of the Russian Federation (Bank of Russia), followed by unattributed report of comments on the above by Vice Premier Boris Fedorov]

[Text] As we have already reported (see ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI No. 100), on 24 May 1993 the head of the Russian Government and the chairman of the Central Bank of Russia (CBR) signed a joint statement on economic policy determining the basic avenues for achieving financial stabilization and developing the Russian economy. The preparation of such a statement was the main condition for beginning talks with the IMF on the question of granting Russia reserve credits worth $3 billion. The full text of the statement is cited below:

Tasks

The aim of the tax and monetary-credit policy of the government and the Central Bank is to reduce the monthly rate of inflation to a level below 10 percent by the end of 1993 and to achieve further stabilization of prices in 1994. The aims of policy in other spheres, including foreign trade, the system of currency rates, and privatization, is to increase the efficiency of the Russian economy, to accelerate its integration into the world economy, and strengthen the role of the market, taking into account the federal structure of the state. A quantitative description of economic policy measures contained in the present statement is adduced in the Technical Supplement.

1. Monetary and Credit Policy

A—Beginning with the second quarter of 1993 the total growth in CBR credits is to be restricted to quarterly limits which are to be defined on the basis of tasks of reducing inflation.

B—The granting of targeted subsidized credits, both by the government and by the CBR, will correspond to the credit guidelines indicated above. All applications for targeted bank credits are to be examined by the Commission for Credit Policy.

C—The Russian Government and the CBR will gradually desist from granting targeted credits of all kinds through the channel of the Central Bank and will switch to granting subsidies only through the budget, relying on market mechanisms in implementing monetary-credit policy. In order to achieve this goal the CBR will substantially increase the proportion of credits which it grants to commercial banks either through credit auctions or on market conditions. The CBR will refrain from distributing targeted credits on a sector or regional basis, and also from granting credits directly to specific enterprises. By 15 July 1993 the CBR's discount rate will be fixed at a level not more than 7 percentage points lower than the interbank market base interest rate, as indicated in the Technical Supplement, and will then be maintained at that level. Subsequently interest rates will be subsidized only through the budget and in line with established limits.

D—The government and the CBR will not in the future grant credits for enterprises to offset one another's nonpayments.

2. Budget Policy

A—The total budget deficit (that is to say the consolidated budget deficit plus extrabudgetary import subsidies) will be restricted by quarterly guidelines corresponding to the program cited above in the sphere of credit. The government's borrowing of banking system funds, including CBR funds, will be restricted taking into account external funding and the issue of state securities for sale on the market.

B—The government will carry out the necessary measures under the expenditure and revenue headings of the budget in order to comply with the indicated restrictions on the total budget deficit and the limit on the receipt of banking credits. These measures will be aimed at reducing tax incentives and subsidies, especially import subsidies and subsidized targeted credits, and also at a proportional reduction in expenditure on budget items. It is also planned to obtain additional revenue from taxes on energy sources.

3. Policy in the Sphere of Hard Currency Exchange Rate and International Reserves

A—The government considers the creation of a system of a single, market ruble exchange rate a key element in the transition to a market economy. Although the strategic task is transition to a stable exchange rate, the rate of the ruble will continue to float in relation to other currencies until financial policy is strengthened and inflation is substantially reduced. Until such a time the CBR will not intervene in the currencies market with the aim of artificially supporting the ruble exchange rate. The government will apply its efforts to supplementing Russia's currency reserves.

B—The access of nonresidents to hard currency funds in Russia will be broadened. From 15 July 1993 nonresidents will be able to sell foreign currency, and from 1 September to buy it.

C—The CBR intends to encourage the further growth of the currencies market, notably by supporting regional currency exchanges and moving over to daily quotation of the currency rate.

4. Foreign Trade Policy

The government will take further steps in the direction of liberalizing foreign trade. Export quotas on various products will gradually be abolished according to a definite timetable. The scheme of centralized exports will not be extended in 1993, and in 1994 the volume of centralized exports will be reduced to one-third of the 1993 level. The government will not introduce the practice of multiple exchange rates or conclude bilateral payment agreements which contradict Article 8 of the IMF Agreement, or introduce import restrictions with the aim of maintaining a balance of payments.

5. Basic Structural Changes

The government intends to consistently carry out the program of privatization, improve the legal basis of market relations, assist the development of financial markets, and actively promote structural improvements in the economy. The government will submit to the Supreme Soviet draft laws on joint-stock companies and securities, and also new Civil and Trade Codes, which will include measures to strengthen the legal protection of contracts; it will seek to eliminate restrictions on land ownership; and it will ensure the implementation of the law on bankruptcies.

6. Economic Cooperation with Former USSR Countries

A—The government and the CBR recognize the desire of states of the former Soviet Union to introduce their own monetary units and are prepared to fully cooperate with them. The government will also seek to conclude the relevant agreements with states which express a desire to use Russia's monetary unit.

B—We will seek to reach agreements with countries of the former Soviet Union on the terms of funding under the loans granted by Russia in 1992 and at the beginning of 1993. We are ready to discuss with the interested states the size and forms of granting new intergovernmental loans. Loans to former USSR republics will pass through the budget system and be registered as official state loans.

C— We intend to work in conjunction with interested states on increasing the efficiency of the mechanism of payments between countries of the former Soviet Union, notably by creating interstate clearing mechanisms.

7. Implementation of Policy and Monitoring

The Russian government will place at the disposal of the IMF information necessary to monitor the fulfillment of the program agreed with the Fund. In this connection the government and the Central Bank are to elaborate, also in cooperation with the Fund, a system of short-term financial and foreign economic indicators. Steps are to be taken to extend the government's possibilities in the implementation of economic policy, including, in particular, strengthening the role of the Commission for Credit Policy, regulating the work of the Treasury, and developing collaboration with nonbudgetary funds. By 1 September 1993 the government will set up a mechanism for the effective monitoring of external revenue and a system for obtaining the ruble equivalent of foreign finance, and will create a group for these purposes with the participation of IMF representatives.

8. The Agreement on Reserve Credits

The Russian Federation Government intends in the very near future to enter into talks with the IMF on the conclusion of an agreement on reserve credits.

[Signed] V. Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Council of Ministers-Russian Federation Government

V. Gerashchenko, chairman of the Central Bank of the Russian Federation (Bank of Russia). [statement ends]

Vice Premier Boris Fedorov has described the signing of the joint statement on government and Central Bank of Russia economic policy as "to a certain degree historic."

He stressed that the statement confirms an intention to strictly adhere to quarterly limits on the granting of centralized credits. In the second quarter the government is keeping to those limits, he said, by taking from the CBR 2 trillion rubles [R], R700 billion of which will go toward investment and conversion programs. In this way the deficit part will be increased by the planned R1.3 trillion.

Boris Fedorov called the Central Bank's agreement to establish by 15 July of this year a discount rate at a level of not more than 7 percentage points below the interbank market base interest rate a most unexpected and impressive victory for the government in its debate with the CBR. "This is a sign that the positions of the Cabinet of Ministers and the CBR are drawing closer together," he said.

Speaking about the government and CBR decision to stop granting credits for enterprises to offset one another's nonpayments, the vice premier said that he had presented proposals to the Russian Council of Ministers Presidium consisting of 18 points on resolving the problem of nonpayments by technical methods. Commenting on the clause in the statement which proposes to reduce expenditure on budget items, Boris Fedorov said that he had prepared a draft presidential decree on a moratorium on additional expenditure not allowed for in the budget. This document will be examined in the very near future at a session of the Council of Ministers Presidium.

Paper Assesses Accord Between Government, Bank

PM0306094193 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 May 93 First Edition p 1

[Yekaterina Vasilchenko commentary: "Only the President Can Spend Money Without Boosting Inflation"]

[Text] Cutting inflation to 10 percent a month by the year's end—that was the aim set in the "Statement on the Economic Policy of the Government and the Central Bank of Russia." Commenting on it, Vice Premier Boris Fedorov said that, although the government is saying 10 percent, it is thinking 5 percent—and it seems that all the prerequisites for this do exist. What do they boil down to?

As of the second quarter of this year it has been decided to set quarterly limits for the total growth in Central Bank of Russia lending. These will be reduced: Growth should be 30 percent in the second quarter, 20 percent in the third, and 15 percent in the fourth. And lending will henceforth come directly from the budget and be channeled through a commission headed by Boris Fedorov. The Central Bank will issue loans exclusively on a commercial basis.

The government and the Central Bank of Russia have decided to no longer provide loans to fund enterprises' debt offset arrangements.

We are not making a balanced budget our immediate goal, since this is impossible for the time being, Fedorov said, but measures to cut the deficit will be taken.

Energy prices are a special category. The other day President Yeltsin announced the repeal of his edict freezing fuel prices. This edict had been passed on the eve of the referendum and was seen by most people as purely a campaigning measure. The vice premier reaffirmed these proposals and admitted that, as a result of the edict, the budget had lost 150 billion rubles [R] in a month. The vice premier assessed the edicts passed on the eve of the referendum as costing R7 trillion in total.

Touching on price formation in the gas sector, the finance minister said that prices should be such as to ensure that the state can levy excuse duties and taxes. The sector does a lot of work for export and should produce a tidy profit for the budget. This issue is currently being looked at, as is the question of cutting coal sector subsidies as much as possible. State bread subsides will also be reduced.

Summing up the results of all this, Fedorov announced that he has drawn up and submitted to the Council of Ministers Presidium a draft edict on a moratorium on government spending.

This program makes a very contradictory impression. It is hard to believe that measures such as the lifting of export quotas or the introduction of absolutely free foreign trade will help to cut the inflation rate. Clearly, it is a question above all of exports of raw materials—primarily oil and gas. Having been given the opportunity to sell any number of goods abroad and earn foreign currency, producers will not be interested in trading in their own country at anything but world prices. This means that energy prices will rocket, resulting in a new surge of inflation.

There is also doubt about the abolition of import subsidies. This is hardly likely to shift purchasing firms' interest from foreign producers to domestic producers. On the other hand, the abolition of preferential currency conversion when buying goods abroad will inevitably lead to a sharp increase in the price of these goods in Russia.

It is hard to calculate "off the top of your head" which will do more to promote inflation—preferential taxation or its abolition, which will inevitably crank up prices. The one thing that is clear is that the state has decided for the umpteenth time to make citizens bear the burden of some of its spending.

Boris Fedorov is known to support a tough financial policy. The current statement, like the recent publication of the federal program for economic restructuring—

whose gist is that the state should support strong producers while the weak should go to the wall—seems to be based on the well-known formula "the worse, the better." The faster the economic crisis peaks, the sooner the crisis will be over. It is hard to say whether everything really is that simple. But we can assume that there are some more wild times ahead for Russia.

Republic Heads 'Forgery' Said 'Preliminary' Document

PM0206172193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Jun 93 First Edition p 2

[Aleksandra Lugovskaya report: "Who Substituted the Official Document and How Is Still Unclear"]

[Text] Two articles in IZVESTIYA (Nos. 99 and 100) entitled "Ultimatum by Republic Heads Is a Forgery" and "Harsh Reaction to False Articles" have had an impact in official circles and the press.

Let me remind readers that the issue revolved around the publication in NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA and ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA of a political statement, over the signatures of 16 heads of republic of the Russian Federation, concerning the procedure for preparing, discussing, and adopting a new Constitution, and also the mechanism for implementing the Federation Treaty.

We have been able to establish that the published text was that of a **preliminary** document, albeit signed by the 16 heads of republics but having nothing in common with the final version of the statement, which was submitted for discussion during the conference held, as we know, 26 May in Moscow. The preliminary draft was not intended for publication in the press. Thus a preliminary document was substituted for the official one. Let me make it clear that the final version of the statement by the heads of republics, which was painstakingly prepared taking into account previously voiced observations, was regarded as the official document and had nothing in common with the preliminary document in terms of content. Following detailed discussion and the incorporation of corrections and amendments, President Boris Yeltsin proposed to the republic heads that they adopt the final text of the statement without signing it, as is customary in international practice.

As a result of the publication of the preliminary text of the statement as an official document in NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 27 May, the Russian Federation president's Press Service circulated a denial agreed with the presidents of Ingushetia and Mordovia, the chairman of the Dagestan Supreme Soviet, and certain permanent representatives of the republics under the Russian president. However, some of the permanent representatives subsequently changed their viewpoint on this issue. But A. Galazov, chairman of the North Ossetian Soviet Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet, Republic of Adygea President A. Dzharimov, and Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria President V. Kokov joined in refuting the version of the statement published in NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA.

Nonetheless A. Yarlykapov, Bashkortostan's representative under the Russian Federation president, asked IZVESTIYA to publish the "statement of the 16..." as a genuine document. And at the same time to recognize as invalid the text of the statement by the heads of the Russian Federation republics published in issue No. 99 of our newspaper and officially adopted at the conference 26 May. Without being drawn into a polemic, we will agree unreservedly with the esteemed author of the letter about one thing: The incident involving the replacement of official documents by their preliminary versions is really not conducive to the future normal development of constitutional treaty relations.

Media Ministry News Conference Hits Observers Councils

PM0306110193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Jun 93 First Edition p 2

[Georgiy Melikyants report: "Journalists Do Not Need Pyramid of 'Press Assistants'"]

[Text] A news conference has been held at the Russian Federation Ministry of Press and Mass Information in connection with the decision by the Constitutional Court on the decree of the Congress of People's Deputies "On Measures To Ensure Freedom of Speech in State Television and Radio and in Information Services."

Unlike the discussion in the Constitutional Court, which took place in the absence of any of the parties concerned, i.e. journalists, on this occasion the room was filled with a number of correspondents from newspapers and the electronic media. Minister Mikhail Fedotov stressed that the court's decision has only complicated a situation which only a legal solution to the problem can clear up. He again indicated the legal incompetence of the "observers councils to ensure freedom of speech," and also of the recognition of the soviets' bid to participate in hiring and firing cadres in the mass media.

He cited a specific example: An observers council established in Novosibirsk contains no journalists, psychologists, or sociologists—what recommendations can we expect from such a council? And in Mordovia, using the Congress's decree as a basis, they have gone even further: The republic's Supreme Soviet will itself appoint mass media directors and also monitor their financial and economic activity. That is to say it has simply usurped the functions of the republic's Press Ministry.

Oleg Poptsov, chairman of the All-Russian Television and Radio Company, unequivocally expressed his dissatisfaction with the position taken by the Constitutional Court. We should not allow nonprofessional censorship of television and radio programs, he said. Supreme Soviet Deputy Igor Yeremin directed the attention of

those present to the fact that in this instance parliament has placed short-term expediency above the law. He described the proposal to form observers councils composed of representatives of parliamentary factions as unworkable since the present representation of public forces in parliament does not reflect the real political situation.

The struggle for the mass media, Supreme Soviet Deputy Yuriy Luchinskiy noted, is being waged not by the two branches of power but by two different political systems or two eras, one might even say. The vague decision by the Constitutional Court only demonstrates its paralysis; it can no longer be relied on to use the same yardstick in its decisions.

Journalists are rightly afraid, "Ostankino" Deputy Chairman Valentin Lazutkin said, that they will once again become "underlings." The relation of the three estates to the fourth estate should be based on a package of carefully considered laws. The solution to practical questions regarding the activity of the mass media should be transferred to the people involved in this sphere, i.e. the journalists. This will raise the responsibility of the press itself and avoid direct noncompetent interference in its work. A pyramid of "press assistants" is unnecessary, just as it is not needed anywhere else.

Military Issues

New Concept of Defense Industry Privatization Promoted

MK2805111493 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian No 20, 27 May 93 (signed to press 27 May) p 14

[Unattributed report under the rubric "Business": "Military-Industrial Complex Has Own View of Privatization"]

[Text] The League for Assistance to Defense Enterprises has sent to the State Committee for the Management of State Property its own concept of privatization of the military-industrial complex, Vladimir Alferov, the league's executive director, has advised. According to him, the concept is intended for inclusion in the 1993 state privatization program. Under this concept, military-industrial complex enterprises are to be privatized in two stages. As they are being turned into joint-stock companies, their personnel would have the option of either the first or the second set of preferential terms. Part of the shares (up to 20 percent) to be held by the state are proposed to be sold in a closed auction to either the employees on the payroll or related or associated enterprises. Thus, in the first stage, military-industrial complex enterprises in fact become closed-type joint-stock companies. In the second, a rigid type of association will be created—technological corporations managed by holding companies, and industrial-financial groups formed on the latter's basis. Shares that would still remain in the possession of the state (up to 30 percent) are proposed to be handed over to holding companies. Up to 20 percent of the holding shares are to be placed in trust of directors of enterprises with dividends due to them. As much as 10 percent of shares may be sold in the stock market. The remaining shares of a holding company are to be transferred, after three to five years, to enterprises comprising the corporation.

Military Equipment Policy Council Holds First Session

LD2805203093 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 28 May 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Today in Moscow the first sitting of the council on Russia's military equipment policy was held with Deputy Defense Minister Andrey Kokoshin in the chair. Representatives of parliament, the government, and the military-industrial complex took part in the session.

[Begin Kokoshin recording] The appearance of this council is, I believe, a sign of the times since the old structure, the old system for administering military orders and for administering military equipment policy which existed in the former Soviet Union, has collapsed, and a new system is only now being formed. [end recording]

[Begin Ilin recording] In the opinion of the majority of the session's participants, the main directions of Russia's military equipment policy today depend only on solving financial and economic problems. Under present conditions of delayed finance and inflation the rubles being allocated by the state for defense needs are devalued by 60 percent before they reach the manufacturer. Although it is necessary to finance defense orders two to three years in advance, today they are being financed only for a year—and that is with difficulties. At the same time, only 30 percent of the funds allocated today by the Supreme Soviet to the Defense Ministry's budget for 1993 have been transferred by the Central Bank. The level of financing for the defense industry, which is the main vehicle for bringing the most modern technologies into the production sphere, has almost reached the dangerous point at which the collapse of production and the end of experimental-construction work may begin. [end recording]

Officers Union Interrepublican Conference Held

PM0206083193 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 1 Jun 93 p 3

[Report by Zh. Kasyanenko: "Strictly According to the Law"]

[Text] The interrepublican conference of the Officers Union was held in Moscow 29 May and made an analysis of the existing political situation and discussed tasks for the future.

It was noted that the political opportunities of the present regime have now been fully exhausted and the only way for it to be conserved is to attack the Constitution. The fuss over the Constitution is the latest attempt to create an atmosphere of excitement over farfetched problems, as was the case with the idea of the 25 April referendum, and thus to distract people from the solution of urgent tasks for consolidating statehood, halting bloodshed and lawlessness, and emerging from the economic crisis. In this situation we should expect any methods to be used to weaken the opposition and to disrupt its organization, right up to the criminal proceedings against leaders, acts of provocation, and bribery.

The conference concluded that it is now essential to concentrate the efforts of all organizations of the Officers Union on the solution of the main tasks of the time—the consolidation of statehood and the ensuring of civil peace—and to take an active part in the so-called "constitutional" process, consistently advocating the strict observance of the constitutionality of decisions and actions. The officers voiced their readiness to defend the constitutional system if there are attempts to change it, from whomever they may come.

The Officers Union, which considerably strengthened its prestige in the May events, is now an independent force among other patriotic movements. Its firm and unambiguous state-patriotic position has given rise to attacks from some mass media and unobjective coverage of its actions. The conference instructed the Officers Union legal service to examine the question of organizing legal proceedings against the mass media which have allowed the distortion of the organization's actions and position in their publications.

Commander Addresses Border Guard Ceremony 28 May

Guards Equipped With New Protection Means

LD2805173793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1525 GMT 28 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow May 28 TASS—"The Russian border troops are being actively equipped with efficient means to protect the border," Russian border troop commander Colonel-General Vladimir Shlyakhtin told ITAR-TASS here today.

In his words, Russia abandons the traditional principle of tough troop coverage of the state border on its whole perimeter. "The approach will be strictly differentiated, peculiarities of the situation and inter-state relations will be taken into account," he said.

As for the activities of the border troops, they will be adequate to actions of the neighbouring side. The formation and development of border troops are under constant control of the Russian president and parliament.

Vladimir Shlyakhtin addressed today a ceremony to mark the border guards' day at the Russian Security Ministry's central club.

Commander Cited on Border

LD2805205193 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 28 May 93

[By Korovkin, including interview with Colonel-General V.I. Shlyakhtin, commander in chief of Russian border troops, on 28 May; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Shlyakhtin] Some comrades here are saying there is no legal basis, there is no border, and so on. This is, well, erroneous in my opinion. We have a legal basis, we have, that is, a range of presidential decrees and governmental decisions, and most importantly we now have a law on the Russian Federation state border, which was adopted by the Russian Supreme Soviet on 1 April this year. So we have the right to say that we have a Russian state border.

[Korovkin] Defense of the economic interests of the state is one of the main tasks of the Russian border troops. In this year alone, they have confiscated contraband valuing 1.5 billion rubles. On the border with the Baltic states, the export of 576 tonnes of non-ferrous metals and 266 tonnes of gasoline has been prevented. A unique operation to prevent salmon poaching was undertaken by maritime border troop units in the Far East. In cooperation with the United States Coast Guard, they stopped a whole armada of poacher schooners from Japan, South Korea, and China on the approach to salmon migration routes. And this was despite the fact that the strength of the troops has been reduced by 30,000—but, as they say, know-how works better than numbers.

Role of Troops Viewed

PM0106134593 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 1 Jun 93 p 2

[Article by Igor Chernyak: "Instead of Commentary"]

[Text] On 28 May the Russian Federation celebrated Border Guard's Day but in the old style, so to speak: It was 75 years ago that Lenin signed the decree on the institution of the border guards. The border troops of sovereign Russia mark their first anniversary in two weeks' time, 12 June. But that did not prevent Boris Yeltsin from wholeheartedly congratulating the border guards on 28 May and expressing profound thanks to them "for fulfilling their patriotic duty."

Together with the profound thanks no less profound sympathy could have been expressed to the border guards. It seems that not even Colonel General Vladimir Shlyakhtin, commander of the border troops, could explain to them what they are guarding, whose interests they represent on, for instance, the former Soviet-Turkish border in the south of sovereign Georgia. (You

can imagine Moscow's reaction if, for instance, German border guards suddenly advanced to somewhere near Brest.)

Or another former fraternal republic—Tajikistan—whose border with Afghanistan has at Dushanbe's request been guarded by the Russians since August 1992. This decision was made personally by Boris Yeltsin. Today the commander of the Russian border troops admits that the units and subunits under his command have essentially found themselves at the epicenter of the sides' armed conflict. On over 40 occasions he has had to enter into armed clashes with gangs of various orientations. Here too casualties are already customary. Tne question of what Russia gains and what it loses by compelling its soldiers to come to the defense of the Tajik border is for some reason not discussed in Moscow.

There is an opinion that the Russian troops and the border guards in particular are defending the strategic interests of Russia itself on the remote frontiers of the CIS. First, interests of a political nature, since the present power in Tajikistan is maintained largely thanks to Russia's support. Second, they are there to defend the Russian-speaking population which in the event of political instability will be left without "cover" and will move to Russia, which already has many problems.

At the same time the figures speak for themselves. While the Russian border guards are guarding foreign borders, according to the figures of the Border Guards Main Staff about 14,000 km of newly formed Russian borders have not been equipped, not to mention legal backup for them. Of the 10 border districts of the former USSR only five are now available. While the borders of Russia and the former Soviet Union are virtually identical in length—over 60,000 km—the numerical strength of the Russian border troops has been reduced by 30,000 and is continuing to decline with each new draft. As a result Estonia, for instance, which has never been renowned for its stocks of nonferrous metals, has suddenly and instantly become almost the world's leading exporter of these metals.

Further Updating of Northern Fleet Urged

PM0106160193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Jun 93 p 2

["Military Review" by Vladimir Gundarov and Vladimir Maryukha: "Northern Fleet Still Not Letting Us Down, But Well-Conceived Actions Needed To Ensure That It Does Not Lose Its Role in the Country's Defense"]

[Text] Unlike other Russian fleets, the Northern Fleet has a most advantageous geostrategic position. Its ships have a free outlet to the Arctic and access to the Atlantic. That was the global scale on which the problem of asserting and protecting the Soviet Union's interests at sea was examined. With the breakup of the Soviet Union this scale has naturally changed. However, the significance of the Northern Fleet within the system of safeguarding Russia's security has not lessened as a result.

New Ships—New Tasks

Typically, according to the assessment made by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev in January during a meeting with officers in Severomorsk, "the military and geostrategic interests that largely determine Russia's national security are coupled together" in this city. What is more, for objective reasons the Northern Fleet, while remaining Russian, operates in the interests of the whole CIS. The political and national storms buffeting the ships of the former Union in the Black Sea, the Baltic, and the Caspian have not reached the northern latitudes. Despite economic difficulties the Northern Fleet is rigorously maintaining the percentage of forces on permanent standby.

In the opinion of Admiral Oleg Yerofeyev, commander of the Northern Fleet, stability in the fleet is being preserved primarily thanks to people's attitude to doing their official duty. The fleet is itself experiencing a period of reform and cuts. Some 15-20 submarines and around the same number of surface ships are being decommissioned annually. These are primarily obsolete, inefficient ships. At the same time modern ships are replacing them. Thus combat readiness is not only being sustained but is even rising to a qualitatively new level, and the fleet's intellectual potential is being preserved.

Over the last two or three years new nuclear submarines have joined the fleet's combat strength. Thanks to that there has been a considerable increase in the range at which foreign submarines can be detected, and time spent shadowing them has almost doubled.

The heavy aircraft-carrying cruiser Admiral Flota Sovetskogo Soyuza Kuznetsov, which joined the Northern Fleet last year, gives these state-of-the-art submarines, surface groupings, and missile-armed naval aircraft the capability to resist an enemy. This ship is indispensable for performing tasks in the fleet's zone of responsibility, and the problems with it have taken too long to resolve.

The Kuznetsov is the first aircraft-carrying cruiser to have its own mooring, but construction work on it is not complete. At the moment the aircraft carrier lacks its full complement of Su-27K and MiG-29K aircraft. Nor does it have a full complement of helicopters, and there are vacancies for ensigns. And that is on a ship designed to replace prior to their final "convalescence" the previous generation of heavy aircraft-carrying cruisers that became prematurely obsolete owing to a lack of fully equipped bases and a ship repair base (the aircraft-carrying cruisers Kiyev and Admiral Flota Sovetskogo Soyuza Gorshkov have been in dock for several years at ship repair yards).

What is more, the fleet has also been affected by the economic crisis. Owing to the severing of economic ties

between the Commonwealth states the fleet is receiving virtually no spare parts from Ukraine, Moldova, and certain other states. Supplies of spare parts, tools and accessories have only partially resumed from Belarus and Kazakhstan. The problem of fuel supplies is still current. The possibility of creating fuel stocks and of several bases' being jointly used by Northern Fleet and "Sevryba" Joint-Stock Company ships is now being studied.

Foreign Exercises Off Our Shores

Another aspect of cooperation that the men of the Northern Fleet have to master goes beyond Russia. Russian diplomacy sees the need to boost the level of trust between the Russian Navy on the one hand and the naval forces of the United States, Britain, France, Germany, and Norway on the other. It is a question of lending greater predictability to naval activity in the Atlantic and the Arctic, abandoning threatening actions on the oceans of the world, averting incidents at sea, and developing contacts among fleets.

But at the moment these are all good intentions, and solely one-sided intentions, moreover. Last year, for instance, the traditional NATO Joint Armed Forces "Team Work-92" exercises took place in northern Norway in direct proximity to the Russian-Norwegian border. Some 15 amphibious warfare ships, aircraft from the U.S. nuclear-powered attack aircraft carrier Eisenhower and the general-purpose amphibious assault ship Nassau, and roughly 16,000 U.S., British, Netherlands, German, and Norwegian servicemen took part in these exercises. Last year off the coast of the Kola Peninsula British, French, and Norwegian warships conducted vigorous reconnaissance activity. The actions of the U.S. nuclear submarine Baton Rouge at the entrance to the Kolskiy Zaliv caused it to crash into a Northern Fleet nuclear submarine. This year two nuclear submarines—from the United States and Russia—collided once again. Yet again in waters which the whole world knows to be an area where Russia tests its combat readiness. What is more, there are several foreign nuclear and diesel submarines at once on permanent combat patrol in the Barents Sea, including submarines carrying ballistic missiles. Each of them, even in peacetime, threatens to cause a nuclear catastrophe. According to Russian seamen, NATO naval activity prevents Northern Fleet ships from carrying out planned combat training, even in their test areas, off their shores. So cooperation must be learned together. But first it is necessary to ensure that talk of cooperation occurs on an equal footing. After all, in terms of armament the Northern Fleet is not inferior to the NATO fleets, which are in no hurry to leave Russian territorial waters.

Unlike Russia, the NATO countries have not cut back their shipbuilding programs. The U.S. Navy took delivery last July of a 13th Ohio-class nuclear submarine and a sixth nuclear-powered aircraft carrier. Britain has finished construction on the latest Duke-class frigate with guided missile weapons. This list can go on and on. It is quite possible that the men of the Northern Fleet will shortly meet these ships and submarines in their zone of responsibility.

Naval Strategy: What Lies Ahead

Russia must gear itself to developing a navy capable of being one of the instruments of its foreign policy and of safeguarding its economic interests and national security. That was what Army General Pavel Grachev, Russia's defense minister, said during a visit to the Northern Fleet in March. The Northern Fleet was originally created with an "eye" to these tasks. Today, according to the defense minister, naval strategy is based on two main concepts for the use of the Russian Navy: deterrence and naval cooperation in peacetime, and timely defense and suppression of aggression in wartime.

In order to do this the Navy, primarily the Northern Fleet by virtue of its geostrategic position, needs new multipurpose surface ships and submarines. Construction of the latter has been elevated to state program status, but there are far more problems involved with surface ships, notably with the development of aircraft-carrying cruisers. If these problems are resolved, the Northern Fleet will hold on to its leading role in defending Russia's maritime interests.

Supreme Soviet

Rutskoy's 'Constitutional Status' To Be Examined

LD0306082793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0803 GMT 3 Jun 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow, 3 Jun—The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet will examine the issue of the parliament's request to the Constitutional Court to defend the constitutional status of Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy. It was included on the agenda of the session today at the proposal of Deputy Vladimir Isakov, the coordinator of the "Russia's Unity" opposition parliamentary bloc.

Vladimir Isakov claimed that the vice president "is being subjected to persecution," including by the press.

Parliament To Send Khasbulatov to Conference

LD0306081793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0720 GMT 3 Jun 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow, 3 Jun—The Russian parliament has decided to send Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation, as the official representative of the Russian Supreme Soviet to the constitutional conference opening on 5 June.

Parliament Debates Constitution Adoption Procedure

MK0306095093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Jun 93 p 1

[Ivan Rodin report under the "In Brief" rubric: "Supreme Soviet Introduces Order in Agreeing on and Adoption of Constitution"]

[Text] The Supreme Soviet is expected to discuss today a decree "On the Procedure for Agreeing on and Adoption of a Draft Constitution" submitted by the working group of the Constitutional Commission. According to the decree, a single draft Fundamental Law is proposed to be drafted by 30 June at the latest. It is proposed to take into account all amendments to be made in the draft during the Constitutional Conference on 5 June.

Within one month following a nationwide discussion (it is to last three months), the president, the Constitutional Commission, the Supreme Soviet, and components of the Russian Federation are supposed to hold yet another round to agree on a single draft endeavoring to "achieve complete agreement on all its provisions." The passing of a constitution will be done by the congress that is to convene on 17 November.

Appended to the draft decree is an amendment to Article 185 of the current Fundamental Law that reserves for the congress the right to pass a new constitution of the Russian Federation.

Joint Session Discusses Youth, Rutskoy, Central Bank

LD0306130693 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Report by correspondent Sergey Shatunov; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Various laws were discussed at a joint session of the Supreme Soviet's chambers today. Among other things, the parliament adopted a resolution on the basic guidelines of state youth policy in the Russian Federation. The document defines youths as being citizens aged between 14 and 30. In accordance with the resolution, the state will undertake to safeguard the rights of young people, facilitate their entrepreneurial activities, guarantee the provision of social services, and so on.

The question of a parliamentary appeal to the Constitutional Court over the constitutional status of Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy and the need to defend it was added to the session's agenda today at the request of Deputy Isakov.

The deputies then heard a statement by Viktor Gerashchenko, head of the Russian Central Bank. Ruslan Khasbulatov, who spoke after him, said that the Central Bank should pursue its activities within the framework of the program being implemented by the government, but with the approval of the legislative authorities, above all the Supreme Soviet. According to the speaker, parliament ought to complain to the Central Bank because its leadership is not following the practice adopted elsewhere in the world, where central banks have to report regularly on the state of the country's finance and credit system.

Proceedings for 2 Jun Session Detailed

LD0306050193

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1737 GMT on 2 June, in its 35-minute "At the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet" program, carries a report, including recorded highlights, by an unidentified announcer, on the Russian Supreme Soviet proceedings on 2 June.

The announcer explains that the Soviet of Nationalities had 12 points on the agenda. A. Mikitayev, chairman of the Commission on Citizenship under the Russian President, presented a draft law on Citizenship of the RSFSR.

Mikitayev says: "We have recognized the institution of dual citizenship in our law but its implementation clashes with individual points of our law which say that before taking citizenship of the Russian Federation it is necessary to quit the citizenship of a different state.

"So, many of our fellow citizens, your relatives, people close to you who have half of their family living in the nearby foreign states as we now describe the states which were formerly republics. They cannot break up their families. They want the opportunity to communicate freely and so it is necessary to implement dual citizenship for them and we must not require them to quit their citizenship.

"Furthermore, we have fellow citizens who left during the civil war and now have descendants who live in various states but who have not lost their links with the homeland and they still consider Russia to be their homeland. But at the same time they have lived for a long time in those states where they obtained refuge and rest. Therefore, they cannot cast off this citizenship. Therefore, this circle of people is also asking for dual citizenship to be permitted and for them to be permitted to keep their citizenship."

Mikitayev continues: "The main amendments are on this issue. We have removed the point on taking citizenship of the Russian Federation. We had such a point in our existing legislation that they must first quit the citizenship of the other state. We are removing this point and introducing a point which is universally recognized and which exists in the legislation of many states. We are including a point that the Russian Federation does not recognize the citizenship of another state for its citizens."

He concludes: "This point makes it possible to get around the problem. The question is not raised directly

of its first being necessary to quit the citizenship of a different state. On the other hand, it stresses that on the territory of the Russian Federation these people are, for us, citizens of the Russian Federation. A point is being introduced saying that all our laws are extended to them. They receive the rights but at the same time they receive the obligations while on the territory of the Russian Federation."

The announcer goes on to say that the deputies approved a draft introducing jury courts.

Mikhail Georgiyevich Arutyunov, chairman of the subcommittee of the Committee on Human Rights, presents a law on the procedure for the departure of citizens of the Russian Federation from the Russian Federation and entry onto its territory. The new law extinguishes the distinction between those leaving permanently and those leaving temporarily, a distinction which had caused problems in the past. The new law takes account of the discussions held with various official bodies on preserving state secrets. Citizens will no longer be forbidden to visit places considered dangerous, but will just be advised of the risks.

Russian Interior Minister Viktor Yerin speaks on the presidential decree on introducing a state of emergency on the territory of Mozdok Rayon, Prigorodnyy Rayon, in adjacent localities of North Ossetia, and in Malgobek and Nazran Rayons of the Ingush Republic.

Yerin says: "As is known, the state of emergency in the zone of the Ossetian-Ingush confrontation has been in operation since 2 October, 1992. During that period the law enforcement bodies have on the whole managed to keep the situation under control. The main task has been fulfilled: New major armed clashes have been prevented. The necessary conditions have been created for the process of settling the conflict peacefully.

"As of today a grouping of internal forces numbering about 3,000 servicemen have been concentrated in the state of emergency region. There are 2,200 in North Ossetia and about 500 in Ingushetia. The Ministry of Defense has 1,225 servicemen here. There are over 800 reinforced militia forces whom we recruit in all regions of the Russian Federation."

Yerin continues: "The actions of the forces of law and order are directed in the first place at maintaining the state of emergency regime, uncovering the full extent of the crimes committed during the armed confrontations and clearing them up, confiscating illegally held weapons and, on this basis, creating conditions for conducting the negotiation process to resolve all disputed questions.

"Local and brought-in law and order forces regularly carry out operations to confiscate weapons in Ossetian and Ingush populated points. Since the start of the conflict they have confiscated 33 units of armoured equipment, 17 machine guns, 326 automatic weapons, 62 rifles and carbines, about 300 pistols and revolvers, over 300 grenades and over 90,000 rounds of ammunition.

"In accordance with the instruction of the head of the interim administration, work is being carried out for the handing in of weapons by the so-called national militia of North Ossetia and concentrating these weapons in centralised storage points. A total of 546 rifle weapons, mainly automatic ones, have been handed in by today."

Yerin goes on to say: "The decree from the president of Russia provides for the enlargement of the state of emergency zone and includes the whole of Prigorodnyy Rayon which makes it possible to concentrate the forces and resources of the law enforcement bodies and to direct their efforts to maintain law and order and the security of citizens. In our opinion the decree once again gives the real opportunity and time for a peaceful settlement of all disputed questions. It is addressed in the first instance to the leaders of North Ossetia and Ingushetia. Only political measures can disentangle the tight knot of contradictions and accumulated problems which we are faced with. To make mutual concessions, to find mutually acceptable ways of stabilizing the situation; this is the business and the obligation of the political leaders of these republics."

Yerin concludes: "In their turn, the law enforcement bodies will continue to undertake all necessary measures to ensure legality and law and order in this region in order to create the conditions for the successful settlement of the conflict situation. I ask the people's deputies to support the decree of the President of the Russian Federation."

The announcer adds that the decree was adopted: 163 for; 0 against; and 0 abstentions.

New Visa Law Passed

LD0206132093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1241 GMT 2 Jun 93

[By parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow June 2—Russians cannot be restricted in their right to enter and leave the country, according to a bill passed today by the Chamber of Nationalities on first reading. The draft law still has to be approved by the other chamber of parliament, the Council of the Republic.

One of the key parts of the bill allows Russians to leave the country to visit or reside abroad or to enter the country without limiting their own or family members' political, housing, labor, or other rights. If a Russian leaves the country, she still enjoys ownership rights to movable effects and real estate obtained legally, money, securities, and other valuables on Russian territory.

Composition of New Commission Viewed

LD0206135293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1306 GMT 2 Jun 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Yuriy Filippov]

[Text] Moscow June 2 TASS—The Russian Parliament's Council of the Republic today endorsed the composition of its Economic Reforms Commission, set up instead of the Economic Reforms and Property Committee of the Supreme Soviet, abolished a month ago on Ruslan Khasbulatov's initiative. The new commission includes neither Sergey Krasavchenko, chairman of the abolished committee, nor one of its most active members Petr Filippov, who had asked the Council of the Republic in written form to include him in the commission.

Elected to the commission were people's deputies of the Russian Federation Bronislav Babayev, Aleksandr Belousov, Yuriy Ivanilov, Petr Karpov, Vitaliy Kulakov, Vladimir Mazayev, Aleksey Manannikov, Sergey Polozkov, Vladimir Rebrikov, Stanislav Smirnov, Georgiy Smolskiy and Vladimir Tikhonov. Its chairman is Vladimir Mazayev.

Property Management Law Adopted

LD0206172793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1514 GMT 2 Jun 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Yuriy Filippov]

[Text] Moscow June 2 TASS—Russian and foreign citizens, legal or natural persons can manage the assets of private businesses and mixed property enterprises in the Russian Federation.

This point is envisioned by the draft law "On the management of property by proxy", which the Russian Parliament approved in first reading on Wednesday [2 June].

The draft law defines the nature of activities, to which the manager by proxy is entitled under the supervision of the owner; identifies the responsibilities of the former and sets up a normative basis for legal agreements between the manager by proxy and the owner.

The privatization, the corporatisation of state enterprises, the setting up of private firms and organizations and other cardinal economic changes would have been unthinkable without reorganizing the mechanisms of property management.

Managers by proxy will be of avail both to individual owners and to production collectives, which win a controlling interest in its enterprise.

A new social group - that of managers - is taking shape in Russia. However, the Russian legislation still lacks the necessary legal tools to regulate relations between the owners and the managers.

Appeal Issued on Constitutional Conference

LD0206223093 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 2 Jun 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Today we received an appeal by a number of Russian people's deputies to the Conference of Soviets of all levels and to the Constitutional Conference.

It says that at the present time both the president and the Supreme Soviet should regard with respect the results of the nationwide expression of the people's will, adapt their policies and build them in the interests of the absolute majority of the electorate.

The task of organizing constructive cooperation between all branches of power has come to the fore. The involvement of the soviets of people's deputies and other bodies of authority in political confrontation, the appeal goes on to say, is leading to their discredibility and undermining the foundations of statehood itself.

The deputies consider that joint participation in the constitutional process by all Federal authorities as well bodies of representative and executive authority of the federation's subjects could be a way out of the protracted sequence of discord and civil strife.

The appeal is signed by People's Deputies Ambartsumov, Zhigulin, Polosin, Pochinok, Ryabov, Stepashin, and others.

Budget Returned by President Passed on Reexamination

PM0206134593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 1 Jun 93 First Edition p 6

[Russian Federation Supreme Soviet decree No. 4967-1 signed by Supreme Soviet Chairman Khasbulatov and dated 14 May 1993: "On the Reexamination of the Russian Federation Law 'On the Russian Federation's Republic Budget for 1993'"]

[Text] Having reexamined the Russian Federation law "On the Russian Federation's Republic Budget for 1993," which had been sent back by the Russian Federation president, the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet decrees that:

The Russian Federation law "On the Russian Federation's Republic Budget for 1993" shall be adopted, with the Russian Federation president's comments having been taken into account.

[Signed] R.I. Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet

[Dated] 14 May 1993; Moscow, House of the Soviets of Russia

No. 4967-1

Soviet of Republic Chairman Interviewed

PM0106125593 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 1 Jun 93 p 1

[Interview with Veniamin Sokolov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet's Soviet of the Republic, by Andrey Podkopalov and Stanislav Stremidlovskiy; place and date not given: "'Parliament Is Now Repeating Worst Version of CPSU Central committee,' Believes Veniamin Sokolov, Chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet's Soviet of the Republic"]

[Text] [KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Veniamin Sergeyevich, the conference of deputies of all levels opens 1 June—what is it, some kind of replacement for the Congress? And why is it being convened?

[Sokolov] That is one example of what I do not like in the work of parliament. As chairman of the Soviet of the Republic I learn of this conference from the newspapers. Absolutely unacceptable things happen: Two people decided not to hold a Russian Federation Supreme Soviet session last week. I did not even take part in elaborating that decision. And that is not the first time. At a recent session of our chamber I had already said that we are now repeating the worst version of the CPSU Central Committee—tough centralization, a hierarchical organization, no collective discussion.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] But how can you tolerate all this if the deputies and the presidium members are dissatisfied with Khasbulatov?

[Sokolov] You must understand that the fruit must ripen. When Khasbulatov was on the president's side he broke the deputies by all available means. His style has not changed but his positions have—that is one source of conflict.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Do you not find that since the referendum Russian President Boris Yeltsin has seized the initiative and parliament's position is quite unattractive?

[Sokolov] You are absolutely right that by virtue of some internal reasons we have recently been obliged merely to respond to presidential initiatives. And we are not managing to respond promptly, never mind suggest something. We have thus given people a pretext for arguing: "What kind of a parliament is it, in a serious situation it cannot make a decision, it dissolves itself."

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] In fact he is pinning you to the wall with the constitutional conference...

[Sokolov] You must understand that when differences began among us in the Supreme Soviet on this topic some people adopted a tough position—no conferences, there is a constitutional commission and a Congress. Others, myself included, believing that the Constitution must undoubtedly be adopted in accordance with current legislation—there are things from which we will not retreat—nonetheless allowed the possibility of compromises on procedural issues.

After all the president's edict appeared only after we had in fact rejected the idea of a constitutional conference. And if parliament had adopted a decree in which the constitutional conference was given the status of a conference for the elaboration of the draft Fundamental Law we would have delegated our people there with clearly designated powers: If there is an attempt to impart to the conference the status of a constituent assembly, then they should abandon it, making the relevant statement...

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] But will you personally take part in the constitutional conference?

[Sokolov] So far I have no intention of doing so.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] What in your opinion largely causes the antagonism between parliament and the president?

[Sokolov] Of course, there are different approaches in pursuing economic reform. The present economic policy pursued by the president and government will lead to the loss of Russia's economic independence.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA It must be supposed that you are not alone in thinking this, that many deputies think the same way. It is no secret that the president's entourage would like to achieve their reelection. On what terms is that possible?

[Sokolov] Under present conditions the Congress and the Supreme Soviet, despite all the costs and shortcomings, are nonetheless playing a constructive role. In the very near future, of course, it is necessary to switch to a normal bicameral structure.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] And what is now preventing the Congress from making the necessary amendments to the current Fundamental Law and adopting a law on elections and dissolving itself?

[Sokolov] The draft law on elections introduced by Sheynis and Rumyantsev has already been examined at the Presidium. I think it might quite well be adopted. And in general the question of early elections could quite well be resolved within the framework of the existing constituent—given good will.

Compares Parliament, CPSU Presidium

LD0106121893 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1100 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] The chairman of the Council of the Republic, which is one of the two houses of the Russian Parliament, Veniamin Sokolov, has acknowledged that members of the parliament's Presidium showed serious differences of opinion. He said the parliament speaker, Ruslan Khasbulatov, often made important decisions

without previous consultation with parliament's Presidium. The absence of collective discussions and centralized decision-making resembled the worst patterns of the performance by the Soviet Communist Party's ruling body. As regards the development of Russia's new constitution, Sokolov felt it must be endorsed in keeping with the presently effective legislation. He felt that, despite their limitations, the Supreme Soviet and the Congress of People's Deputies played a constructive role in national life.

Deputies Offered 'Inducement' To Attend Congress

PM2805140593 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 28 May 93 p 1

[Olga Gerasimenko report: "Exchanging Congress for Apartment. Open to Offers"]

[Text] The coming Constitutional Conference has overshadowed a no less important event—the preparations for the next Congress. No less than two-thirds of Russian deputies will have to be assembled in Moscow for it to open. Will that be possible? S. Filatov, head of the president's administration, announced the other day that around 300 deputies intend to snub the Congress.

There is a lot of talk in parliament to the effect that the deputies' votes that are lacking are being "bought." Refusing to name his source, N. Pavlov, leader of the "Russia" faction, reported that members of the Supreme Soviet Presidium and ordinary deputies are being actively worked on at the moment. Thus, some people have been offered help in acquiring apartments in Moscow "on the cheap"—provided they "adopt the right political stance."

N. Pavlov also stated that he has seen lists of people's deputies indicating the level of each deputy's "loyalty" to current Russian leaders. The verdict on a "deputy's firmness" will be passed by a special analytical group on the basis of the way people's deputies voted at all the congresses.

Yu. Yudin, a former militia precinct senior officer and now a deputy from Samara, admitted that nobody has personally offered him any material inducement, but that "support" is repaid in a different way these days—with "jobs" in the Kremlin. In Yu. Yudin's opinion, he could have become vice premier long ago—moving from the Krasnaya Presnya Embankment to Red Square is not difficult for those who really want to.

Payment 'On Demand' for Communications Services Decreed

PM0306110593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 May 93 First Edition p 4

[Russian Federation Supreme Soviet decree No. 4986-1 signed by Supreme Soviet Chairman Khasbulatov and dated 19 May 1993: "On Measures To Improve Settlements for Communications Services"]

[Text] With a view to eliminating the payments crisis and normalizing the financial position of communications enterprises, and taking account of the continuous technological process in the provision of communications services, the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet decrees that:

It shall be laid down that the accounts of consumers, other than the population [krome naseleniya], with communications enterprises (or their separate subunits) of all forms of ownership on the territory of the Russian Federation, for communications services shall be settled on demand at existing rates on the basis of read-outs from meters and other instruments.

[Signed] R.I. Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet

[Dated] 19 May 1993; Moscow, House of the Soviets of Russia

No. 4986-1

Regional Affairs

Situation 'Deteriorated' in North Ossetia, Ingushetia

LD0206131793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1219 GMT 2 Jun 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Valeriy Shanayev and Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Vladikavkaz June 2 TASS—The situation remains complicated in the limited zone of North Ossetia and Ingushetia, where a state of emergency was decreed by the Russian president. According to information received from the interim administration's headquarters, the situation in the zone has even deteriorated lately due to the capture of new hostages both in North Ossetia and Ingushetia.

The criminogenic situation also remains tense. The North Ossetian and Ingushetian Interior Ministries report that 16 crimes of varying gravity were registered in the region over the past 24 hours, twelve people were arrested for administrative abuses and almost 2,000 motor vehicles were checked. Six units of firearms, several explosive devices and hundreds of rounds of ammunition were confiscated from the local population.

ITAR-TASS was told by officials of the North Ossetian Security Council that a group of unidentified gunmen opened fire on a check point of the Russian Army on the outskirts of the village of Chermen in Prigorodnyy district of North Ossetia last night. The attackers escaped on a car after the soldiers retaliated. No casualties were reported.

An inhabitant of the village of Voznesenskaya, Z. Gulayev, a Chechen, died from a bullet wound during shooting at a bus terminal in Mozdok district of North Ossetia, where a state of emergency is also in force. A man, suspected of taking part in the bandit attack, was arrested. Head of the interim administration Colonel-General Yuriy Shatalin has ordered tougher controls on all the transport routes of the region, as well as at the "Vladikavkaz" and "Ingushetia" airports.

According to information received from the press centre of the North Ossetian Supreme Soviet, two inhabitants of Dagestan of Ossetian nationality, seized as hostages by Ingushes the other day, were freed by representatives of the interim administration and law enforcement bodies of North Ossetia.

Ingush President Urges Solving Refugee Problem

LD0206204893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2020 GMT 2 Jun 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Shevtsov]

[Text] Nazran June 3 TASS—"Unless the Russian government takes a decision guaranteeing the beginning of return of Ingush refugees to their homes in North Ossetia, as the president, I shall have to refuse taking part in the constitutional conference and any other events connected with the adoption of a new constitution," Ingush President Ruslan Aushev said in an interview with ITAR-TASS on Wednesday [2 June].

The Ingush president said he would have to appeal to his people and take a decision on the future of his republic. The president believes that no one in the Russian leadership wants to pay serious attention to problems faced by Ingushetia as a result of the conflict. According to Aushev, the main problem is the return of refugees, which should be resolved immediately. In Aushev's opinion, Russian leaders, preoccupied with the struggle for power, forget about the problem of the Ingush-Ossetian settlement and about an explosive situation in the Caucasus in general.

"The failure to adopt decisions is the worst thing in politics," Aushev said. He demanded that the temporary administration take more resolute measures ensuring an immediate return of refugees to their homes. Aushev believes that North Ossetian leaders are deliberately impeding the implementation of Kislovodsk agreements, declaring that it was impossible to live together. "Refugees, currently staying on the territory of the Ingush Republic, are citizens of North Ossetia and they should return to their homes," Aushev said.

Further on Ossetia-Ingush State of Emergency

LD0206210893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2055 GMT 2 Jun 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Filipov]

[Text] Moscow June 3 TASS—The Russian Parliament has endorsed the Russian president's decree on the introduction of a state of emergency on the territory of the Mozdoksk region, Prigorodnyy region and adjoining territories of North Ossetia and Malgobek and Nazran regions of the Ingush Republic, at a joint session on Wednesday [2 June].

Russian Interior Minister Viktor Yerin addressed the parliament, saying that a state of emergency which had been in effect in the zone of the Ingush-Ossetian conflict since November 2, 1992, creates conditions necessary for the peaceful settlement of the conflict.

According to the information at the minister's disposal, today, 3,000 interior troops are deployed in the zone of the conflict. During operations for maintaining law and order in the region the servicemen confiscated 33 armoured carriers, 17 machine guns, 326 submachine guns, about 300 pistols and revolvers and other weapons and ammunition. The interior minister said that 71 criminal proceedings had been instituted and that the criminals were detained and proved guilty. Law enforcement bodies have brought over 6,000 people to justice, and examined about 500,000 cars, Yerin said.

At the same time, negotiations between the warring parties are proceeding slowly, with a protocol of intentions being the main result of the talks, Yerin said.

He pointed out that the continuation of a state of emergency "is another forced measure taken in response to the situation in this region," and which was prompted, primarily, "by a desire to preserve peace, ensure law and order and the safety of people."

Yerin pointed out that leaders of both republics agree that a state of emergency should be continued.

The parliament has endorsed the president's decree on continuing a state of emergency and extending the zone of its application. A state of emergency, imposed on the territories mentioned in the decree, will be in effect until July 31, 1993.

North Ossetian Speaker Calls For Russia's Unity

LD0306094193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0909 GMT 3 Jun 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz June 3 TASS—"The new constitution of the Russian Federation must guarantee the integrity and unity of the multinational Russian state, must ensure its transition to a genuine federation and a truly democratic system, to the balanced development of all the regions of the country in the course of the economic reforms," it is believed by Chairman of the North Ossetian Supreme Soviet Akhsarbek Galazov.

A session of the North Ossetian Parliament appointed the day before plenipotentiary representatives to the

constitutional conference in Moscow. They include Akhsarbek Galazov, Sergey Khetagurov, the North Ossetian prime minister, and two experts—Georgiy Dzhikayev, the republic's justice minister, and Stanislav Kesayev, chairman of a committee under the North Ossetian Supreme Soviet.

Before flying to Moscow, Galazov told ITAR-TASS in an exclusive interview that the "integrity and unity of the multinational Russian state could be ensured by observing a proper balance between the federal organs of power and the republican, territorial and regional authorities". In his opinion, the federal treaty should not merely be part and parcel of the Russian Constitution, but should permeate the fundamental law from its very first paragraph to the last article. "The implementation of the federal treaty will be guaranteed only if it is organically combined with the new constitution of the Russian Federation".

The North Ossetian speaker said that everybody should now restrain their political ambitions. "The Russian Constitution must not be used as an instrument in the struggle between the conflicting sides. This important document must be adopted lawfully," he added. "This is why the main task of the upcoming constitutional conference is to draw up a single and agreed draft constitution of Russia," Galazov stated. "As to the stand of the North Ossetian Parliament," he stressed, "its members have voted practically unanimously for a single and agreed draft constitution of the Russian Federation, based on the draft submitted by the Russian president."

"I am an optimist," Galazov said, "and I think that a sufficiently reasonable and lawful mechanism will be created to adopt the new constitution. It must contribute to the unity of the peoples of Russia, to the country's territorial integrity, and to the further enhancement of Russia's might."

Chechen Premier on Treaty With Russia, Yeltsin Decree

LD0106125793 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] Yaragi Mamadayev, chairman of the government of national trust in the Chechen Republic, has told an ITAR-TASS correspondent that groups of experts and representatives of state power bodies from Russia and the Chechen Republic will start work in the next few day to prepare a bilateral treaty to normalize relations.

Mamadayev stressed that this treaty is not a federation treaty. It is a new form of constitutional relations between our countries, he pointed out. The new treaty will take into account real economic, political, and geopolitical interests of both sides.

At the same time the chairman of the Chechen Republic's government of popular trust expressed his apprehensions with regard to Boris Yeltsin's decree on the state of emergency in North Ossetia and Ingushetia. In his view, there is a danger that the decree may create conditions for confrontational statements and provocations against the Russian Federation on the part of Dzhokhar Dudayev.

Chechnya Ready for Talks With Russia

LD0206164693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1626 GMT 2 Jun 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Belskiy]

[Text] Groznyy June 2 TASS—The Chechen Republic is ready to begin straight away the negotiating process with Russia, the Chechen Prime Minister Yaragi Mamadayev told a news conference here today.

Mamadayev was confirmed in this post by the Chechen parliament in early May. Today's news conference was also told that the parliament authorized the prime minister to revive the earlier disrupted dialogue between Chechnya and Russia.

According to Mamadayev, relations between the two countries will be built within the constitutional and treaty framework. In other words, Chechnya is prepared to delegate some of its jurisdiction to the centre. According to the prime minister, this compromise reflects mutual interests of Russia and the Chechen Republic in a single economic space.

Yaragi Mamadayev told journalists that his government of popular trust has been half-formed as of the beginning of June. He added that some portfolios would be given to representatives of the Chechen opposition.

Chechnya Premier Hints at Dudayev-Yeltsin Collusion

PM0306120593 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Jun 93 p 3

[Viktor Shirokov report: "A Booster for the President of Chechnya"]

[Text] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin recently issued an edict on the introduction of a state of emergency on the territories of Mozdokskiy Rayon, Prigorodnyy Rayon and the adjacent localities of the North Ossetian SSR, and Malgobeksiy and Nazranovskiy Rayons in the Ingush Republic.

Admittedly, we actually received the text of the edict yesterday. An ITAR-TASS commentary explained what the justification was for introducing the state of emergency: "A deteriorating situation, with an increasing incidence of terrorist acts and mass disorder on national grounds involving firearms..." This puzzled us: What, was this not happening before? For months Chechnya, Ingushetia, and North Ossetia have looked like the crater of an erupting volcano. The hot lava of interethnic conflict has long been at critical temperature. So what is actually the reason for this special introduction of a state of emergency? We withheld publication of this report

until we had spoken to Chechen Prime Minister Yaragi Mamadayev. He was extremely laconic and frank:

"This 'box' has a double bottom. The introduction of a state of emergency in the regions bordering Chechnya is a wonderful gift from Yeltsin to Dzhokhar Dudayev. Today the general's popularity in his homeland has fallen so low that it needs a really powerful jack to somehow raise it.

"You ask what the connection is here? It is very simple. In the last six months the identical and coordinated nature of the two presidents' actions has been obvious. Indeed, even before, the situation around Yeltsin had only to deteriorate for the 'Chechen question' to arise. Obviously so that Russians should close ranks in face of an 'external threat.' And quite recently, on the eve of the referendum, Dzhokhar Dudayev in his turn gave every support to the Russian president.

"Why did Dudayev need this state of emergency introduced so much? Why, in order to organize in his turn this same infamous 'external threat' on the borders of the republic, so as to unite Chechens and distract them from the forthcoming nationwide referendum, in which the question asked is mortally dangerous to him: whether or not there should be presidential rule. That is how much he has been scared by the rally on Theater Square that has already lasted two months, at which the people are unambiguously demanding the dictator's resignation, an end to the rampage of crime and the theft of the republic's property, and the holding of democratic elections.

"I declare my total disagreement with the introduction of a state of emergency on the borders of the Chechen Republic, and I appeal to the Russian peoples to stop adventurist steps of this kind, because they bring yet another terrible trial for the Chechen people."

Chechen Leadership Statement on 30 May Incident

LD0206140593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1348 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] Groznyy June 2 ITAR-TASS—The leadership of the Chechen Republic delivered a statement to the CHECHENPRESS agency today to say that the car in which President Dzhokhar Dudayev was returning home after work late on May 30 came under fire automatic rifle fire when crossing Theatre Square.

The president asked the driver to stop the car and stepped out to talk to some 150 participants in the rally in the square. When the president said he wanted to address the gathering, fires were shot in the air from automatic rifles and machine-guns. The cannonade continued for five minutes in combination with fierce swearing. The guards surrounded the president and not a single shot came from them. Some senior citizens in the crowd were particularly aggressive and called for shooting the president. When Dudayev went back to his car, one of his bodyguards was wounded in the back.

The statement said that practically all participants in the meeting were drunk and as it was impossible to talk to them normally, the president left the square.

Some time later, the television tower was attacked, and the attackers broke down the equipment which was used to ensure broadcasting on Channel Two.

The statement recalls that since the opposition opened its permanent rally in the central square in the middle of April, acts of terror and subversion, arson, explosions and murders have become increasingly frequent in Groznyy. Local television has become the focus of attacks, the CHECHENPRESS News Agency said with reference to the official statement.

Chechen Oppositionist Rejects Federation Treaty

PM0106104793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 May 93 First Edition p 2

["Topical Interview" with Lecha Umayev, chairman of Chechen opposition movement "Daymokhi," by Aleksandr Aleshkin on 28 May; place not given: "Lecha Umayev: I Support Khasbulatov's Appeal. But Not in Every Respect"]

[Text] ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA published an appeal from Russian Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov to the Chechen people 28 May in connection with the referendum in the Chechen Republic scheduled for 5 June.

Yesterday the editorial office telephoned Lecha Umayev, chairman of the "Daymokhi" ("Fatherland") opposition movement.

[Aleshkin] What is your opinion of the appeal?

[Umayev] I have not yet read the full text of it. I heard a brief summary on Moscow Radio. On the whole I support it. It is a necessary, good appeal.

[Aleshkin] If you support it on the whole, with which points do you disagree?

[Umayev] One fundamental mistake has been made therein: Khasbulatov urged the Chechen people to sign the Federation Treaty with Russia.

[Aleshkin] Do you have a different view?

[Umayev] The Chechen people should determine their fate by free will. The Federation Treaty is fundamentally unacceptable to us. We favor equal cooperation with Russia.

[Aleshkin] Is that your personal opinion?

[Umayev] No. That is our movement's policy stance. We are demanding the replacement of the incumbent authorities, but the idea of sovereignty is unshakable.

[Aleshkin] How are the preparations for the referendum going? Will the people take part in it?

[Umayev] That is our main task now. We are preparing for it in earnest, but we are experiencing tremendous difficulties. The main one is that all newspapers in the republic have been closed and there is no access to local television and radio for the opposition.

[Aleshkin] I would like to find out what officials think of the appeal, but I cannot contact the parliament. Would you tell me the telephone number?

[Umayev] It is not only hard for you in Moscow to do this, but also for us in Groznyy. The parliament has been forcibly evicted from the building where it was at work. Pardon me for saying so, but I do not know its present whereabouts.

[Aleshkin] What is the situation in the republic?

[Umayev] Tolerable on the whole.

[Aleshkin] We hope that you resolve all your problems peacefully.

[Umayev] Thank you.

Ministry Plans To Move Chechen Oil Processing Center

LD0106083793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0822 GMT 1 Jun 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Ivan Ivanov and Viktor Zhilyakov]

[Text] Novorossiysk June 1 TASS—Russia is planning to develop oil processing industry in its southern regions to eliminate its dependence on the facilities in rebel Chechen republic.

"This should be done because of the situation in Chechnya which was practically the oil processing centre in the Russian south", Fuel and Energy Minister Yuriy Shafranik said upon arrival in Novorossiysk on Tuesday [1 June] where he is to attend a meeting on the development of transportation and energy industry.

He added that it has not been determined yet where the new oil processing centre is to appear.

According to the minister, three major Russian regions may compete for the right - the Krasnodar and Stavropol territories and Rostov region.

Shafranik said it is necessary to continue oil production in Krasnodar territory, however, added that investments in it will depend on the efficiency of the industry.

Shafranik welcomed the recent liberalisation of prices for oil and said stable prices for petrol can be guaranteed during the year in case of financial stabilisation.

Barannikov Views Far East Security Problems

LD0206200193 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 2 Jun 93

[By correspondent German Solomatin from Magadan Oblast, including recorded remark by Russian Security Minister Viktor Barannikov at oblast conference; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Magadan Oblast is the main area for Russia's gold- mining industry, and preserving its wealth is also an issue relating to Russia's security.

After visiting Sakhalin, Security Minister Viktor Barannikov spent a day here in Magadan during his working visit to Russia's Far East. The issues are the same as everywhere else during his trip: a strengthening of the border; tough work by Russia's operational security bodies to combat banditry, terrorism and crimes by mafia structures; and barriers and shields against the illegal export from Russia of precious metals.

The figures cited at the oblast conference disturb the imagination. An attempt to illegally export to a foreign state 38 kg of gold was nipped in the bud, as was another attempt to export 44 kg, and so on. All of this was returned to the town. Eight builders at a gold-washing artel were killed and all the gold extracted by them throughout the season vanished.

There are many further documents, protocols, and facts. They prove that enough is enough, and it is now time to get down to serious business. One can no longer await the adoption of new laws.

[Barannikov] What we have been discussing with you must be tackled at government level.

Constitutional Court Considers Applications on Mordovia

LD0106193593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1907 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] Moscow June 1 TASS—The Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation has begun considering the third application connected with the Mordovian Parliament's decision to abolish the institution of a president in the republic.

The first two applications came from a group of people's deputies of the Russian Federation, including Petr Filippov and Sergey Krasavchenko. The second application was sent to the Constitutional Court by Mordovian President Vasiliy Guslyannikov himself.

The third application was initiated by the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation which sent to the Constitutional Court the Russian president's decree "on ensuring the united system of executive power of the Russian Federation on the territory of the Mordovian Republic". As is known, the Supreme Soviet of Russia

suspended the action of this Russian president's decree until it was considered by the Constitutional Court.

Representatives of the president of the Russian Federation and the Supreme Soviets of Russia and Mordovia spoke at today's session of the Constitutional Court.

Vice premier Sergey Shakhray and Deputy Head of the State Legal Department Anatoliy Sliva upheld principles of division of powers, unity of the system of executive power and observance of the standards of government by the people. Their opponents were Chairman of the Mordovian Supreme Soviet Nikolay Biryukov and Professor of Law Viktor Vishnyakov, representing the Supreme Soviet of Russia. Their polemics lasted almost all day long.

At the evening session, experts from the Constitutional Court joined the controversy.

The consideration of the applications will also continue on Wednesday [2 June]. It is expected that the Constitutional Court will make a decision on the issues under consideration by the evening of June 2.

Court Ends Hearings

LD0206190593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1821 GMT 2 Jun 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yegor Gvritishvili]

[Text] Moscow June 2 TASS—The Constitutional Court of Russia has finished hearing of experts' estimates on the decision of the Supreme Soviet of Mordovia to abolish the institution of presidency in this republic which is a part of the Russian Federation.

Speaking in the court, President Vasiliy Guslyannikov of Mordovia noted that the "discussion in the Constitutional Court on the constitutionality of the decision of the Supreme Soviet of the Mordovian Republic shows that the opposite side has no convincing arguments in defense of its position."

"As Mordovia is part of the Russian Federation, it cannot exist beyond the limits of Russia's constitutional space," the Mordovian president stressed. Vasiliy Guslyannikov believes that according to experts' conclusions, the decision of the Supreme Soviet of the Mordovian Republic to abolish the post of president is unconstitutional.

The next speaker, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Mordovian Republic Nikolay Biryukov, defending the decision made by the supreme legislative body of this republic, noted that the Supreme Soviet proceeded from the internal interests of the republic and acted in keeping with the powers of the sovereign republics codified in the Constitution of the Russian Federation and that of the Mordovian Republic, and the Federal Treaty. Nikolay Biryukov believes that the Supreme Soviet of the republic abolished presidency because he and his colleagues in parliament" have been convinced in practice that the post of president has created a lot of organisational and legal complications for the republic, and is posing a threat of the possible establishment of one-man dictatorship."

Vladimir Narezhny, vice-president of the Mordovian Republic, believes that there cannot be a compromise decision on the abolition of presidency in Mordovia which is being considered by the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation.

Speaking at a news conference in the capital of Mordovia today, Vladimir Narezhny stressed that he was two thirds sure that the court's verdict would be in favour of President Vasiliy Guslyannikov, and if his application is satisfied completely there might be only some insignificant "reservations".

On Thursday [3 June] at its morning session the Constitutional Court is expected to announce its judgement on this case.

Court Cannot 'Interfere '

LD0306083793 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0800 GMT 3 Jun 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Our correspondent has just reported from the Constitutional Court that the Court has made a decision on the Mordova case. As you know, the republic's parliament abolished the post of president of Mordova, which gave rise to an appeal which was being considered by the Constitutional Court.

The Court stresses that it is the internal right of the sovereign Republic of Mordova to decide this matter. As for the Constitutional Court of Russia, it does not have the right to interfere in the internal affairs of Mordovia, and the majority of issues referred to appeal should be dealt with by the Constitutional Court of Mordovia.

International Affairs

Diplomats Urge UN To Reconsider Effect of FRY Sanctions

LD0206221493 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] Ukrainian diplomats along with Oleksiy Tekhov, the head of the Ukrainian Danube Shipping company, have held a series of meetings and talks at the UN headquarters in New York with the purpose of reducing a side effect of sanctions against Yugoslavia on the economies of the Danube countries.

Oleksiy Tekhov stated that data about the situation that had come about in Ukraine and in particular at its shipping companies, the Ukrainian Danube Shipping company and Ukraine's Main River Fleet joint-stock enterprise, had been brought to the attention of the sanctions committee member states.

Oleksiy Tekhov stressed that, apart from maintaining the fleet, there were big losses in the social sphere of the whole region. Schools, clinics, and hospitals were being built. All this required money, which at present is unavailable, since the Danube is virtually inoperative.

That is why Ukraine's representatives came up with the initiative of considering proposals to help normalize navigation on the Danube, rather than restrict it in compliance with resolution 820.

Issue of Ship Passage Along Danube Settled With Romania

LD0206154593 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1200 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] The Foreign Ministry press center reports that the issue of Ukrainian vessels' passage along the Danube has been settled with Romania. An agreement has been reached for those Ukrainian vessels that were detained in Romanian ports under the UN sanctions against the former Yugolsavia, even though they had set out on their voyage before the introduction of the sanctions. The vessels have now set off along the original routes determined by their shipping companies.

Kravchuk Meets With Czech Parliamentary Delegation

LD0206195893 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk received a Czech Republic parliamentary delegation led by Milan Uhde, chairman of the [Czech parliament's] Chamber of Deputies, today.

Leonid Kravchuk noted that Ukraine was one of the first states to recognize the independence of the Czech Republic. "Our relations are traditionally friendly," he stressed. "That is why it is now necessary to begin preparing a document defining these good-neighborly and mutually beneficial relations."

For his part, Milan Uhde noted that the Czech and Ukrainian people not only have similar languages, but also similar history. However, he stressed, it is now necessary to help our relations, including parliamentary ones, to a new stage corresponding with the interests of the two independent states.

Zlenko Meets Delegation

LD0206175393 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] Today, at the Ukraine Foreign Ministry, there was a meeting between Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko and the delegation of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic headed by Milan Uhde, chairman of the Czech parliament. In the course of the conversation, there was an exchange of opinions on issues of establishing and expanding bilateral relations between Ukraine and the Czech Republic.

Roman Lubkivskyy, Ukraine's ambassador to the Czech Republic, and Jiri Payne, chairman of the committee for foreign affairs of the Czech Republic, took part in the meeting.

Official Assesses Recent Black Sea Fleet Developments

AU0106170693 Kiev DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian 27 May 93 p 3

[Interview with Oleksandr Hryhorovych Tarasenko, deputy chairman of the Supreme Council Commission for Questions of Defense and State Security, by Ivan Dmytrenko; place and date not given: "How Will the 'Quiet Mutiny' End?"]

[Text] **So far, there have been no "hot spots" on the map of Ukraine. However, information has reached us to the effect that St. Andrew's flag, a symbol of a neighboring state, Russia, was hoisted on many ships of the Black Sea Fleet, Crimean Naval Base Logistic Support Vessels Division. Yet another conflict is obvious. How will it develop? The editorial board asked Oleksandr Tarasenko, deputy chairman of the Supreme Council Commission for Questions of Defense and State Security, to clarify this.**

[Dmytrenko] Oleksandr Hryhorovych, what are, in your opinion, the reasons for this "quiet mutiny"?

[Tarasenko] They are due, first and foremost, to the crisis situation in our socioeconomic life. It is no secret that the officers corps in the Russian Fleet gets salaries that are several times as large as those of officers who occupy similar posts on ships and in services of the Ukrainian Fleet. Hence, the discontent and, as a consequence, this step....

Regarding the division of the Black Sea Fleet, its principles have been laid in two fundamental agreements—the

Dagomys and Yalta ones. Since their signing, they have generally worked, although with certain violations. Both sides have generally adhered to the moratorium imposed upon unilateral actions. Now, however, the agreements have been violated. This is quite serious.

[Dmytrenko] Therefore, in your opinion, the reasons are mainly of a socioeconomic, rather than a political nature?

[Tarasenko] Yes. Here, it would, perhaps, be pertinent to say that, once we decided to build a fundamentally new state, all the people should show patience for a certain period of time. However, as one can see, everybody has his own vision of the essence of state building and the social protection of citizens....

It is also clear that the aforementioned "quiet mutiny" has a certain political shading. Because there are political forces both in the Crimea and in Ukraine that strive to destabilize the situation in the state. We must not allow this to happen.

[Dmytrenko] Ukraine's Ministry of Defense took certain measures in response to the Black Sea sailors' action. How do you assess these measures?

[Tarasenko] There was a corresponding statement by the Ministry of Defense. It gives a concrete assessment of the action. In particular, the hoisting of St. Andrew's flag compels us to raise the question of the need to remove the ships with Russian symbols from Ukraine. The financing of the crews of these ships must also be suspended. The status of the vessels themselves and of the sailors—members of their crews—also changes considerably. For example, these vessels are considered to be ships of a foreign state, and the members of their crews citizens of Ukraine serving on foreign ships.

These are, certainly, operational actions. The problem, however, requires radical resolution. Negotiations on this between plenipotentiary delegations of Ukraine and Russia will be resumed in the near future.

National Affairs

Kravchuk Addresses Parliament on Constitution

LD0206122593 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0706 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Address by President Leonid Kravchuk at second day of Supreme Soviet session in Kiev—live]

[Text] Esteemed people's deputies. To begin with I want to repeat, focusing attention again on that which Ivan Stepanovych Plyushch, chairman of the Supreme Council, has just said, that over the course of these days, when the prime minister's speech, the president's speech, and the draft submitted by the president on additions to the Constitution, were being discussed, a whole series of ideas and proposals have appeared in proposals by deputies and the commission of the Supreme Council, which discussed this draft, and worked on it for a whole week. I want to stress first that all of these ideas and all of these proposals are not new, nor were they submitted as entirely new.

First, a draft resolution on the prolongation or continuation of the powers of the Cabinet of Ministers was distributed to deputies during the prime minister's speech. Second, during my speech toward the end of the same day, a draft was distributed regarding changes to the Constitution. A draft was also distributed which had been prepared in a commission, which is called the Draft of People's Deputy Tkachuk. So that it is clearer.

On the basis of yesterday's debates we concluded that an acceptable compromise could be found. That is, taking into account the proposals of the president, the prime minister, the principles of Tkachuk's draft, and in this way, having coordinated all of these positions, to adopt such a document.

What does the adoption of such a document mean? First, [passage indistinct] both in fact and legally, de facto and de jure as they say, heads the government, bears direct responsibility for the work of the government, and consolidates this [words indistinct] by means of his signature, that is he signs the document.

Then it does not arise that the president says that he is not responsible for the decision which has been adopted. People's deputies do not need to argue that the president is responsible for this decision. Even more so, because as was stressed here yesterday, that even though the president really is not responsible, it was said to applause that he is responsible in order to prove his responsibility.

For example, it was said that the president can stop the action of a decree when it says plainly in the Constitution that in the period of the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers implementing delegated powers, the Supreme Council of Ukraine can cancel decrees by force of law. That is, a decree [dekret] has the force of law and only the Supreme Council can cancel it. The president cannot do this by means of an edict [ukaz]. This is simply for—I am reading this from the Constitution incidentally, which the Supreme Council voted for. I stress, this means in accordance with the Constitution. Read it to the end—in accordance with the Constitution. I ask you, I ask you, if you do not like, esteemed people's deputies. We will open discussion afterward and...

[Plyushch, interrupting] By means of an established procedure. We will give everyone the opportunity to give his argument.

[Kravchuk] I am stressing this so that it is clear to everyone. In accordance with the Constitution the president can cancel decisions and resolutions [rishennya I postanovy] of the Cabinet of Ministers, but not decrees. So that everything is clear. This is in accordance with the Constitution.

Second, on additional powers or special powers for the Cabinet of Ministers. A draft resolution was distributed to deputies during the prime minister's speech. After this I want to say essentially that I consider that after yesterday's speech—and I think that the prime minister spoke and showed that one needs to act resolutely—for example, a decree which has been adopted can only be cancelled by decree or a resolution of the Supreme Council. In this way, in order to implement this, the Cabinet of Ministers and the president should have such powers, or one ought to go over to another status; the Supreme Council works in constant mode, and cancels that which it should cancel. I and the Cabinet of Ministers cannot do anything else. This is the truth.

This covers the essence. Now about the form. As you remember, the prime minister sincerely—and I have full confidence in this, so does the chairman of the Supreme Council, who has spoken about this—said on the eve of the session that if the Supreme Council does not grant such powers then he would resign. This was said. Now it is said that this issue is supposedly not being put to the vote, that the president and the chairman of the Supreme Council have supposedly got something here, and do not want to submit it to the vote. As the draft has been distributed, we consider it necessary to submit it to the vote, and to let the Supreme Council remove from the prime minister that which he spoke about, confirming these powers. Neither I nor the chairman of the Supreme Council, we spoke just now, have never posed the question, we are not posing it, and we do not intend to pose it, of the resignation of the prime minister. This conversation has never taken place. I am saying this sincerely in the presence of everyone.

In this way the Supreme Council should implement that which it should implement. Then all insinuations surrounding this matter will stop and so will an attempt to transfer some kind of responsibility onto the president again, or be it onto the chairman of the Supreme Council. These are simply exaggerated ideas. I think that one can best express one's attitude to this by voting. This is a normal process. So you have such an opportunity. I also have the opportunity to speak.

So, taking all of this into account, the draft has been distributed for your examination, and needs to be discussed and voted on. I repeat, and this is very important, that each of these clauses of this draft has already been discussed in this hall for three days. Therefore, one can say that the draft as a whole has not been discussed. But the clauses of the draft have been discussed and assessed, and so on.

In conclusion, let me go over the conversation which occured yesterday. One of the deputies turned to the wisdom of the ancients. I think that there is no doubt whatsoever that they were wise, perhaps wiser than us. Others for some reason liked a spade, in order to dig with a spade. Well, this is a matter of taste. So I too want to turn to wisdom. True, I will not make use of a spade. Our Shevchenko wrote, that no reasons can excuse impoliteness. Homer said that whatever word you say, that is what you will hear in reply. However, as far as certain specific masters are concerned, then Plato, also a great man, said deliver only those words in which you believe, and in accordance with which you live.

Parliament Refuses Emergency Powers for President, Prime Minister

LD0206173893 Kiev UKRINFORM in Russian 1338 GMT 2 Jun 93

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Aleksandr [name indistinct]]

[Text] Kiev, 2 Jun (UKRINFORM)—The Supreme Council of Ukraine today refused President Leonid Kravchuk the right to lead the government and thus to assume all responsibility for carrying out reforms in Ukraine. The parliament also declined the request by Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma for the Cabinet of Ministers to be granted emergency plenary powers to take Ukraine out of the economic crisis.

After a three-day debate on these issues, the only resolution adopted by the session was that on the socioeconomic and political situation which has come about in Ukraine, and on ways out of the crisis. It notes, in particular, that economic reform in the country is being carried out with great difficulty, living standards of a considerable part of the population are declining, and sociopolitical tensions in society are growing. The government's measures to take Ukraine out of the economic crisis were deemed insufficient.

At the same time, the Cabinet of Ministers was tasked by the parliament with drawing up a program of the Cabinet's activity in the most important directions of economic development and social protection of the population. The antimonopoly committee and the state property fund were subordinated to the Cabinet of Ministers.

Summing up the results of the discussion, Ivan Plyushch, chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Council, stated that there is no crisis of power in Ukraine in spite of the situation which has come about.

Plyushch Sees 'No Power Crisis'

PM0206133093 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Jun 93 First Edition p 2

[Olga Sergeyeva report: "Ukrainian Parliament Speaker Ivan Plyushch: We Have Done Nothing Terrible..."]

[Text] Kiev—The Supreme Soviet Presidium was in session for five and a half hours, and the best forecasters were predicting a heat wave in Kiev with local storms, at least at the parliament session, which resumed its plenary work 1 June after a week's break.

Unlike many of his fellow deputies, Supreme Soviet Chairman Ivan Plyushch (he and Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma are named by the president as possible candidates for the vice presidency) does not regard the situation which has arisen as disastrous or even alarming, and is inclined to give unequivocal support to Leonid Kravchuk.

"We have done nothing terrible, and there is no power crisis in Ukraine," the speaker noted. "The government, whose term in office has expired, has simply moved over to the status it had prior to November last year. The president, in accordance with existing legislation, exercising his constitutional right, and, I emphasize, with good intentions, decided to take difficult duties upon himself. The prime minister agreed with the president's arguments and accepted them. The deputies took offense, and Leonid Kravchuk's proposal did not then collect the necessary number of votes."

The speaker believes that no decision will be adopted on this matter in the near future, but everyone will simply stay put and retain their previous functions—the president, the head of government, and parliament—improving their relationships constitutionally as they go along. In particular, the president has been given the right to issue edicts on economic reform.

Rukh Opposes 'All Structures of Power'

LD0206184893 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] Ukraine's Narodnyy Rukh declared today that it is in opposition to all structures of power in Ukraine. It deems it necessary to work out alternative programs and form alternative institutions of power on the basis of statehood and democracy.

This is said in a statement by Narodnyy Rukh in connection with the crisis of power in Ukraine.

In the opinion of Rukh, the current system of legislative and executive power in Ukraine has revealed its inability to carry out reformist activity and to build a civilized civic society.

Compulsory Service in Armed Forces Reduced to 18 Months

LD0206173293 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] The term of compulsory service in the Armed Forces of Ukraine has been reduced from 24 to 18 months. In connection with this, Minister of Defense Colonel-General Kostyantyn Morozov has issued an order on extending the list of posts subject to change by extended-service personnel and on cutting the number of posts permitted to have been taken by female personnel.

Belarus

Shushkevich, Iranian Envoy Discuss Relations

LD0206133393 Tehran IRNA in English 1206 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] Moscow, June 2, IRNA—Head of State and Parliament Speaker of the Republic of Belarus, Stanislav Shushkevich, Tuesday said Iran is an important and stable country in the region and called for expansion of Tehran-Minsk economic ties.

He made the remarks in a meeting with Iran's accredited ambassador to Minsk, Behzad Mazaheri, and said Iran was among the first states to give official recognition to the newly-established Republic of Belarus.

Mazaheri, also Iran's ambassador to Ukraine, submitted his credentials to Shushkevich and expressed hope that in the capacity of first Iranian ambassador to Belarus, he would take effective steps towards boosting Tehran-Minsk relations.

He also extended an invitation from President Akbar Hashemi- Rafsanjani to Shushkevich to pay an official visit to Iran which he welcomed.

Defense Minister on Participation in Military Conflicts

WS0206145293 Minsk BELINFORM in Russian 1253 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] Speaking to a ZVYAZDA correspondent, Colonel-General Pavel Kozlovskiy, Belarusian defense minister, has said that the Republic is observing its commitments on arms reduction. However, the lack of means to eliminate of tanks, armored personnel carriers, and infantry vehicles remains a serious problem. The minister pointed out that the U.S. side had promised to allocate $74 million. However, the money will be spent mainly on the nuclear security program and establishing relations between the Belarusian and the U.S. national centers [not further specified]. Pavel Kozlovskiy underlined that not all the weapons are being eliminated. Belarus sells some of them strictly in accordance with the procedure stipulated by the United Nations.

The newspaper correspondent wanted to know whether Belarusian troops will go to Yugoslavia on a UN peace mission. The minister answered that this will be possible only by a decision of the Belarusian Supreme Soviet. In Pavel Kozlovskiy's opinion, Belarus should not interfere in international ethnic conflicts. If Belarus sends its troops to Yugoslavia, it might lose more than it could gain.

Gen. Kozlovskiy pointed out that the participation of Belarusian troops in military conflicts cannot be ruled out. However, each individual case must be approved by the Belarusian legislature.

Says Arms Reduction Commitments Being Fulfilled

LD0206134993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1328 GMT 2 Jun 93

[By unidentified BELINFORM-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Minsk June 2 TASS—"Belarus is scrupulously fulfilling the assumed arms reduction commitments," Belarus Defence Minister Colonel-General Pavel Kozlovskiy told the newspaper "ZVYAZDA". "Shortage of means to destroy tanks and armoured carriers, which are to be scrapped under these agreements, is a serious problem," he added.

The minister said that the American side had promised 74 million U.S. dollars mainly for the nuclear safety programme. Nevertheless, not all the weaponry is slated for destruction. Some of it will be sold in accordance with the rules fixed by the United Nations.

Asked whether Belarus troops would be sent to Yugoslavia to serve in the U.N. peacekeeping forces there, the minister said that such a step could be taken only with the consent of the Belarus Parliament. He believes the republic should not be involved in any inter-ethnic conflicts. However, he could not fully rule out the participation of Belarus servicemen in some conflicts. "But every such case should be authorised by the republic's parliament," Kozlovsky said.

Tajikistan

Talks With Opposition 'Making Difficult Progress'

LD2805162793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1306 GMT 28 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe May 28 TASS—Talks between the official Tajik authorities and leaders of unlawful military formations of the Gorno-Badakhshan autonomous region in the Pamirs, have begun in Dushanbe, the capital of the republic, ITAR-TASS has learned from sources close to the Tajik Government.

Local analysts say that the Gorno-Badakhshan region remains a headache for the central government of Tajikistan, because quite large opposition forces remain entrenched there. The talks are being conducted in strict secrecy. However, information has leaked out that the pamir delegation has advanced several terms on which the opposition is ready to end its resistance to the present regime. They include the strict observance of the Tajik Supreme Soviet's amnesty decree, which, in their opinion, is not always honoured, the organised return of refugees from the Pamirs and their guaranteed personal safety in places of permanent residence, the reorganisation of so-called Pamir self-defence detachments into government battalions of the national army and the interior ministry, and also the quickest possible opening of the Osh-Khorog humanitarian corridor under their control to supply food to the population of the region, which is on the verge of starvation. The most badly needed products, including bread, are in very short supply in the Pamirs today.

According to a high-ranking government official, the dialogue is making difficult progress, because not all the terms of the Pamir delegation are acceptable to the Tajik leadership. However, both sides are ready to strike a compromise. Head of the Tajik state Emomaly Rakhmonov told a group of foreign journalists that it was necessary to seek a joint decision for the sake of ending the confrontation and achieving national concord. He said that he wold personally fly to the Pamirs shortly.

At the same time, the government of the republic is exerting vigorous efforts to stabilise the situation in the Pamir area, the difficult predicament of which is aggravated by the presence of more than 70,000 refugees. Three additional air flights to the regional centre of Khorog have been organised as of today. About three thousand refugees, wishing to return home, are now crowded around the airport. Measures are being taken to deliver fuel to the Pamir area, the absence of which has brought to a standstill all public transport services in the Gorno-Badakhshan region, and to supply food to the local population.

Government Studying Situation in Dushanbe

LD0106153693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0844 GMT 1 Jun 93

[By TIA "Khovar" correspondent Oleg Sobolev]

[Text] Dushanbe, 1 Jun (TASS)—A commission headed by Prime Minister Abdumalik Abdullodzhanov has begun its own inspection of the state of affairs in the capital of Tajikistan. It will study problems connected to the development of the city's economy at the level of government, ministries, and departments, and will give help to the enterprises, institutions, and organizations which most need it. Today the commission was in the city executive committee to hear a report by Mayor A. Mansurov, who expressed disquiet at the continuing fall in production.

The government commission will sum up the results of the work it has done on 4 June. They will be used as the basis for a program for the city's social and economic development. "Stabilization of the public and political situation in Tajikistan" Abdumalik Abdullodzhanov stated, "to a large degree depends on the situation in Dushanbe. Hence, leading specialists and heads of branches of the economy have been included in the group, and their decisions will speed up stabilization and improve the multi-faceted life of the republic's capital."

Border With Afghanistan Being Reinforced

LD0306043093 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0311 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Text] Individual sections of the Tajikistan-Afghanistan border are being strengthened with additional forces and equipment. Special subunits of the National Security Committee of the Tajik Ministry of Internal Affairs are being brought in there. This was learned by the ITAR-TASS correspondent from sources close to the military command. These measures are the result of the real threat of fresh attempts at military provocations on the part of the formations of the Tajik opposition, which are based in the provinces of Afghanistan along the border.

According to information from the Tajik special services, on the contiguous bank of the river, water-going equipment is being prepared for the forced crossing of the Pyandzh. However, as Saidamir Zuhurov, the head of the national security service, stated to our correspondent, the threat of the Islamic followers perpetrating a wide-scale operation to overthrow the lawful government of Tajikistan will be stopped in the most decisive manner.

Russian Humanitarian Aid Arrives in Dushanbe

LD0206181793 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1700 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] Two large Il-76 aircraft landed at Dushanbe Airport on 1 and 2 June. The aircraft were carrying humanitarian aid from the Russian Federation to Tajikistan. The aid has been delivered at the initiative of the Committee of Internationalist Soldiers under the council of leaders of the CIS.

Two convoys of trucks delivered the consignments to the cities of Kurgan-Tyube and Kulyab, which have been damaged as a result of the war and natural disasters. The convoys were escorted by international soldiers, who have accompanied the consignments, and representatives of the republic.

Azerbaijan

Elchibey Meets With U.S. Senators

NC0306100193 Baku AZERTAC in English 0747 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Text] Baku, June 3 (AZERTAC)—Paul Simon, the American senator-Democrat, gave high appraisal to the developing relations between Azerbaijan and the USA. P. Simon with his two colleagues arrived in Baku yesterday. The purpose of their visit is to study the possibilities for the USA to take part in settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijan conflict more actively and to acquaint with the democratic reforms, that are carrying out in this Republic.

According to the senators opinion, that he expressed yesterday night during his meeting with the Azerbaijanian president, adherence of the Azerbaijanian Government, and the president personally, to the policy of democratic changes favour the successful dialogue of two countries. Paul Simon considers such state of affairs a firm base for the most effective solution of the social-economic problems confronting Azerbaijan.

After the meeting Abulfaz Elchibey stated that 'the support that the USA rendered to the Azerbaijanian democracy has made another countries to reconsider their position with respect to the Republic and to regard Azerbaijan as an equal in rights partner in world community'. He also pointed out that only the common efforts of all interested parties could help to reach the peaceful settlement of this conflict.

According to the American senators, the aspiration for the peaceful settlement of the conflict is observed in Azerbaijan, as well as in Armenia. They also said that the information, that has been collected in the region, will be presented to the US secretary of state for the purpose of elaborating of new methods to solve this problem as soon as it is possible.

Kamberov Meets Senators

LD0206193893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1843 GMT 2 Jun 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sevindzh Abdullayeva, Viktor Shulman]

[Text] Baku June 2 TASS—Chairman of the Azeri Parliament, Isa Kamberov, met with visiting U.S. senators in Baku on Wednesday [2 June]. During the meeting Kamberov outlined problems faced by Azerbaijan today. He said that some problems, including the construction of an independent democratic state and the transition to the market economy can be resolved by Azerbaijan itself, while the Azeri- Armenian conflict can be resolved by joint efforts of the world community.

Commenting on the Azeri approach to the Azeri-Armenian conflict, Kamberov said that "the Armenian leadership was not regarding the conflict as the struggle for Nagorno-Karabakh. The matter concerns large-scale aggression unleashed by Armenia against Azerbaijan with the aim of annexing Azeri territories."

The Azeri speaker believes that "certain forces in Azerbaijan are interested in the dangerous confrontation between the people of the two countries, which they use as a lever for pursuing their own interests in the region, which has an advantageous geopolitical situation and possesses rich natural resources."

Kamberov said that he was convinced that a tripartite initiative, put forward by Russia, Turkey and the United States and aimed at the settlement of the conflict, will help avoid further escalation of the conflict. Kamberov believes that "the strict compliance with the well-known U.N. Resolution and international principles, in particular, the inviolability of the borders and respect for human rights and the rights of national minorities, will help come out of the deadlock.

For their part, U.S. Senators, Democrats Paul Simon and Harry Reid, and Republican Hank Brown said that they were thoroughly studying possibilities for taking a more active part in the peace- keeping process. This was the main purpose of their one-day visit to Baku and their previous visit to Yerevan.

In the evening, the U.S. senators will meet with the Azeri president, heads of the Foreign and Defence Ministries, a spiritual leader of Caucasian Moslems, representatives of the opposition and the mass media.

U.S. Official Expresses 'Optimism' Over Tripartite Plan

NC0206153893 Baku TURAN in English 1357 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] Baku, June 2 (TURAN)—The Special Representative of State Department of the U.S. John Maresca during his yesterdays meeting with the Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan Tofik Gasymov said that he had optimism concerning the realization of the tripartite initiative the Executive of the Foreign Ministry Araz Azimov informed TURAN agency.

According to Azimov, Maresca called a [words indistinct] the region to fill a gap formed as a result of Armenian repeated refusal of the tripartite plan.

The matter is Armenia having announced of its consent with the second variant of the plan at the same time hints at the necessity to include Nagorno-Karabakh Armenians as an official side in the process. Besides Armenian side protested against Turkey participation in the tripartite initiative calling its neutrality in question.

John Maresca informed Gasymov of the intention to hold a CSCE Minsk Group meeting (without Azerbaijan and Armenia participation) in Rome on June 3 in order to raise the tripartite initiative to a 'G 9' level. Thus the tripartite initiative will get the status of the CSCE Minsk Group official document and it will reinforce its significance.

Gasymov confirmed Azerbaijan supported initiatives which led to peace and justice establishment in the region. Meanwhile he stressed that Azerbaijan had a concern in the connection with the delay of the realization of the UNSC Resolution Number 822. According to Gasymov Azerbaijan resources to compromise are not endless.

Iranian Culture Minister Visits, Signs Agreement

NC0206202093 Baku AZERTAC in English 1745 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] Baku, June 2 AZERTAC—Today Minister for Culture of Azerbaijan Polad Byul-Byul Ogly and Minister for Culture and Publishing Houses [Minister for Islamic Culture and Guidance] of the IRI [Islamic Republic of Iran] 'Ali Larijani have signed an agreement on cultural cooperation between Azerbaijan and Iran. At the press-conference held after signing the both ministers said that the document gives a new impetus for development of cultural relations between the neighbouring countries and particularly [word indistinct] holding days of Iran culture in Baku and days of Azerbaijan culture [passage indistinct] exchange of art exhibitions, expansion of creative and business contacts of [passage indistinct]

Meets Elchibey

NC0206203593 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Excerpt] President Abulfaz Elchibey today received the visiting delegation of Iranian cultural workers headed by Dr. 'Ali Larijani, minister of Islamic culture and guidance. Larijani said that finding ways to broaden and activate the relations between Iran and Azerbaijan is essential. He also informed Elchibey that Iran carefully follows the dispute between Azerbaijan and Armenia and stressed that the Iranian Government has maintained a resolute approach on the question of the withdrawal of Armenian troops from Kelbadzhar. Larijani said that Iran will continue to support Azerbaijan's just cause in international organizations.

The two sides discussed the historic and cultural relations between Iran and Azerbaijan. They noted that the relations of the two sides have confirmed the opportunities for the establishment of multisided cooperation between the two countries.

President Elchibey stressed that Azerbaijan wishes to maintain good-neighborly relations with Iran. He welcomed the improvement of relations in [word indistinct] and cultural fields. Furthermore, he said that he is convinced that the opportunities for cooperation must be better used by the two countries. [passage omitted]

Karabakh Proposes Talks on Crisis

LD0206123893 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1100 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] Nagorno-Karabakh has proposed to Azerbaijan to hold bilateral talks on settling the military conflict in the region. Earlier, Karabakh authorities rejected the peace initiatives of Russia, the United States and Turkey on solving the conflict. They believe their joint plan does not guarantee safety for the population in Karabakh. At the same time, Azerbaijan and Armenia have agreed with the peace initiatives. Karabakh, populated mainly by Armenians, is a part of Azerbaijan which declared its independence unilaterally.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Arrives in Beijing on Official Visit

LD0206123693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1143 GMT 2 Jun 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Spirin]

[Text] Beijing June 2 TASS—A Georgian state delegation headed by Eduard Shevardnadze arrived on an official visit in Beijing today. Twenty five documents on interstate relations are expected to be signed in the course of this summit meetings.

On the eve of his visit to China, Eduard Shevardnadze said in Tbilisi that the most important task in Georgian-Chinese relations was the establishment and development of bilateral economic contacts which would be the main theme at the forthcoming talks in Beijing.

This is Eduard Shevardnadze's first visit to China as head of state of Georgia. Earlier, as foreign minister of the former Soviet Union, Shevardnadze visited China four times and was received by Deng Xiaoping.

Meets Jiang Zemin

LD0206173593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1713 GMT 2 Jun 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Oreshin]

[Text] Beijing June 2 TASS—China is ready to develop relations of friendship and cooperation with Georgia on the basis of five principles of peaceful coexistence, China's Chairman Jiang Zemin told visiting Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze today.

China respects the choice made by the Georgian people and attaches great importance to the development of mutually advantageous relations with Georgia. Difference in societal structures and value orientations must not be seen as an obstacle to the development of friendly interstate relations.

Eduard Shevardnadze told his Chinese opposite number that Georgia values China's positive experience in carrying out reforms and expanding eternal links. He pointed to the broad perspectives in the development of interaction between the two countries and expressed the hope that his present visit would impart a new impulse

to the development of relations between the two countries in various fields, including trade, economic relations, science and technology.

After the talks, the leaders of the two countries signed a Chinese-Georgian communique in which the basic principles of bilateral relations are formulated.

PRC Reportage on Visit

WA0306123093

For PRC reportage on the visit to China by Eduard Shevardnadze, including meetings with President Jiang Zemin, see the Central Eurasia section of the China DAILY REPORT on 2 June and subsequent issues.

Parliament Discusses Deteriorating Economy

LD0206174293 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0800 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] For several weeks now the coupon has been a matter of concern for parliament, as the currency has lost a lot of value over this period. In the markets and places of public gathering, there are now people who are demanding two coupons in exchange for a Russian ruble.

All the time during the second half of yesterday's parliament session was taken up by the third issue on the agenda, which dealt with the state monetary and credit policy and coupon circulation. (Temur Bakhtilia), chairman of parliament's budget and finance commission, said that following the session of parliament last Friday members of the commission had a meeting with representatives of the Cabinet of Ministers and the National Bank. He submitted to parliament for discussion a draft resolution produced at the joint meeting, which sets out measures to be taken by the Cabinet of Ministers and the National Bank in the immediate future in order to strengthen the coupon.

Members of parliament asked Deputy Premier Roman Gotsiridze, to address the session. As he spoke about coupon protection mechanisms, he said that the coupon must be declared the only legal tender and the transition must be completed in 10 days at the most.

The creation of a mechanism for social protection in order to save the population from total impoverishment became a matter of special concern for members of parliament. It was noted that at a time when the minimum standard of living is at about 14,000 rubles [R], the average minimum pay [as heard] is R3,000. The deputy premier responded to this by saying that after careful consideration and taking into account the present realities, the Georgian government has decided to increase salaries by 30 percent. However, this decision is not in its final shape yet, since the government is still searching for ways to improve the population's economic conditions.

Roman Gotsiridze also said that there are both objective and subjective reasons for the deterioration of the economic situation in the republic. He pointed out, in particular, that at a time when Georgia is in effect in a state of war, which is putting off potential investors, credits have been granted to various private structures, with no signs of paying off.

Unfortunately, at these hard times for Georgia when one can speak of rescuing the population from starvation and when the threat of starvation is not only posed by the errors of certain echelons of power but is also the destiny of a beleaguered nation which is on the verge of destruction, the parliament's floor is often taken by individuals who, in a populist manner, think more of themselves than the people.

After a lengthy debate, the session adopted a resolution on state monetary and credit policy and coupon circulation. This instructs the Cabinet of Ministers and the National Bank to submit to parliament for examination in a week's time a program containing measures aimed at strengthening the coupon.

In accordance with its previous decision, parliament suspended the powers of Members of Parliament Nodar Giorgadze, who has been appointed head of Georgia's permanent mission in Vienna [as heard], and Panteleimon Giorgadze, who has been appointed commander of Border Troops by the Georgian defense minister's order.

Finally, the session adopted a resolution on the withdrawal of Russian Federation Armed Forces from Georgia.

Official Sums Up Military Situation Around Sukhumi

LD0306092093 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0400 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Text] [Announcer] We would like to start this news bulletin with information from Sukhumi. Gocha Avlotia, head of the armed forces press center, is on the line. Hello, Gocha, the transmission is on the air, so you can start telling us how last night was and what the situation is like this morning in Sukhumi and Ochamchira.

[Avlotia] The enemy became very active at 1300, shelling the village of Akhalsheni in Sukhumi Rayon. The Abkhaz side fired about 40 shells at this village. One Georgian soldier was killed.

You already know that the enemy attacked us the night before last at the village of Kindghi, where 11 Georgian soldiers died. The command of the 2d Army Corps decided that as of today any kind of humanitarian aid for the town of Tkvarcheli must be stopped. The corps command issued a statement illustrating the instances when the agreement was breached by the Abkhaz side.

Last night was relatively quiet both across the Gumista River and in Ochamchira Rayon.

[Announcer] Is it quiet this morning?

[Avlotia] Yes, it is relatively quiet, if we do not take into account the fact that snipers are active on the Gumista River.

[Announcer] Thank you very much. It is so sad that the situation has been exacerbated again on the front line. Moscow's mass media are not hiding it either, noting that the Abkhaz side opened fire, not the Georgian side, as they used to say regardless of who used to start shooting. The situation is very serious and the whole world knows about it already. We wish you success. Thank you.

Opposition Leader Demands Shevardnadze's Resignation

LD0306100893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0959 GMT 3 Jun 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi June 3 TASS—Today's demarche by leader of the Georgian opposition Irakli Tsereteli, who demanded the resignation of Eduard Shevardnadze, the head of the Georgian state, is described by local commentators as a mutiny on board a ship in the absence of her captain.

Tsereteli accused the parliament chairman, who is to return from China on Friday, where is currently on an official visit, of several "grave sins". The main one, Tsereteli believes, is that Shevardnadze is unable to guarantee Georgia's sovereignty and stability. He believes that there "will be no peace and tranquility in Georgia" as long as Shevardnadze remains in power.

Shocked by this demarche, the MPs preferred not to debate it, and the session was adjourned by its speaker Vakhtang Goguadze.

Estonia

Prime Minister Holds Trade Talks With Kyrgyz President

WS0206130893 Tallinn BNS in English 1329 GMT 31 May 93

[Text] Tallinn, May 31, BNS—Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar at his visit to St. Petersburg Sunday [30 May] had a meeting with Kyrgyzstani President Askar Akayev.

The two leaders discussed prospects for developing economic cooperation between the countries, a governmental spokesman told BNS. Kyrgyzstan is interested in supplying Estonia's textile industry with raw cotton.

Akayev and Laar agreed that the prime minister of the newly independent Central Asian country will visit Estonia in the near future. Akayev thanked Estonia for assistance in the country's recent transition to a national currency. Advisers from Estonia gave Kyrgyzstan consultancy aid ahead of the introduction of the new currency.

The Estonian premier returned to Tallinn in the early hours of Monday.

Defense Chief Says 'Most' Russian Troops To Leave This Year

WS2805141893 Tallinn BNS in English 1044 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] Helsinki, May 28, AP—BNS—Russian officers have declared that most of their 6,500 troops will leave Estonia this year, said Aleksander Einseln, the retired U.S. army colonel who heads the Estonian defense force.

"I met with the Russian air defense commander yesterday... and he said he would be out by the end of the year," Einseln said Thursday [3 June], during his first foreign visit as Estonian military commander.

The Russian chief of staff also said his soldiers would leave by the end of 1993, Einseln said.

Those two groups account for most of the Russian soldiers in Estonia, a legacy of 50 years of Soviet occupation, Einseln said.

"What would be left would be some stragglers; just inconsequential amounts," Einseln said.

"They have some real problems for which I have empathy," Einseln said. "They don't have any quarters for themselves" or their families in Russia.

Einseln said Estonia's 2,000-man army would have no trouble dealing with the Russian troops, if necessary. "I think with what we have at the present time, we can handle that threat," he said.

But, he said, young Russian soldiers "ought to be home chasing girls instead of running around the woods with rifles."

When Estonia and its Baltic neighbors, Latvia and Lithuania, became independent from the Soviet Union in 1991, they estimated more than 120,000 Red Army soldiers remained on their soil.

Since then, the Russian government has said it would withdraw the soldiers, but asked for aid in housing them back home.

Einseln said that the army will take control of Estonia's borders in two months, because the border guard has been unable to deal with an estimated 12 million crossings per year since independence.

"The borders are not under proper control. There are inadequately trained and poorly paid people who are easily bribed," Einseln said.

The Border Guard chief, Maj. Andrus Oovel, said during a visit in March that people cross between Russia and Latvia, and across the Baltic Sea to and from Sweden and Finland. About 15,000 people cross daily between northeastern Estonia and Russia, mainly to work in Estonia.

Einseln, 61, was warned by the U.S. State Department that he might lose his U.S. citizenship after he accepted the post of commander-in-chief on May 4.

"I'm going to go to the court system and also to the Senate and Congress. I have lots of friends, lots of support in the United States," he commented. "The whole thing is totally overblown, quite out of proportion," said Einseln, who retired from the U.S. Army in 1985 after 35 years of active service.

Government 'Not Ready' To Build Housing for Russian Troops

WS0306101193 Tallinn BNS in English 1253 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] Kaliningrad, June 02, BNS—The Baltic Fleet Construction Department's Chief, Colonel Valery Nikitin has declared after his visit to Estonia last week that Estonia is not ready to assist the construction of housing for Russian servicemen leaving Estonia.

At a meeting in Tallinn with Ago Tiiman, a political adviser at the Republican Foreign Ministry, Baltic Fleet officials spoke about the construction of homes for Russian servicemen going out of Estonia, something that Estonia's Defence Minister Hain Rebas had discussed with his Russian counterpart Pavel Grachev in Vilnius. The intention to build housing was reiterated by Estonia's Premier Mart Laar when he met the first deputy commander of Russian Federation Navy, Admiral Igor Kasatonov, when he visited Tallinn at the end of May.

Although Tiiman reiterated Estonia's pledge, the sum set aside by Denmark for these goals has proved too small for any feasible investment. He said that the Republic would ask other countries for cash to build homes for Russian troops.

In a letter handed to Tiiman, the Baltic Navy Commander, admiral Vladimir Egorov, urges Laar to respond in substance and notes that the naval and civilian personnel moving out of Estonia require 1500 flats.

Baltic Fleet officials arrived in Tallinn with blueprints for housing construction in St. Petersburg, Novogorod, Pskov, Ostrov, and Ust Lug and with construction land purchase certificates.

Russian Navy Personnel To Serve in Tallinn on Contract

WS2805132493 Tallinn BNS in English 2014 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Tallinn, May 26, BNS—In the Tallinn base of the Russian navy, 31 seamen have already signed a contract on continuing their service in the Russian navy.

The Russian Baltic navy staff informed BNS that eight of the men wish to continue their service in Tallinn, the rest may be sent elsewhere.

In Estonia, there are also about 500 local persons who have expressed their wish to serve in the Russian navy by the contract. In case they are citizens of Russia and they are successful at the competition, they can serve in the Russian navy forces.

The monthly pay of a seaman serving by the contract is about 800- 900 kroons.

Border Guards Take Over Former Soviet Radar Stations

WS0106144993 Tallinn BNS in English 0755 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] Tallinn, May 31, BNS—Estonian border guards, after taking into use the former Soviet radar stations, have partially gained control over movement in the country's territorial waters.

With two radars on the island of Hiiumaa and one on Saaremaa, Estonian border guards have control over territorial waters around the western islands. Radars on the islands of Pakri in the north and Naissaar near Tallinn, as well as on the Jurminda peninsula eastward on the northern coast, will resume operation soon. This together with one station currently operating in Tallinn will allow the country to control its territorial waters in the Gulf of Finland.

Estonia is going to station one fixed and a few mobile radar stations on the coast of Lake Peipsi which makes up most of the country's border with Russia.

Estonia in the future is going to set up a single coast and air space observation network on the basis of systems provided by a number of different countries and manufacturers. The French company Thompson has offered a scheme that would allow to control the country's borders with 14-15 radars. Another French company, SAT, offers observation equipment. Swedish companies are offering installations for local commands.

Armed Forces Chief Meets Finnish Counterpart in Helsinki

LD2805173493 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1600 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] According to the Foreign Ministry's press service, Colonel Aleksander Einseln, commander of the Estonian defense forces met Finnish Defense Minister Elisabeth Rehn and the ministry's command staff Thursday [27 May] during the course of a private visit to Finland. Colonel Einseln was briefed on Finnish foreign policy and UN participation. He held lengthy talks with Major-General Pertti Nykanen who coordinates Estonian-Finnish defense cooperation. General Gustav Haegglund detailed the key principles of Finnish defense policy. Following lunch, Colonel Einseln had a familiarization session with Finnish border troops and rescue services. Later in the day, Colonel Einseln held a news conference at the Estonian embassy.